

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3852
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
EXPLORATION BY OIL IN ORISSA
SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the circumstances under which the Oil India Ltd.(OIL) has stopped its exploration activities in Orissa inspite of large reserves;
- (b) whether the OIL is proposing to resume full scale operations in the State; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a)to(c): Oil India Ltd.(OIL) had carried out extensive surveys in the Mahanadi offshore and onshore areas and in North-East Coast (NEC) offshore area.A total of fifteen exploratory wells had been drilled in these areas and no commercial hydrocarbons discovery was made. However, five offshore blocks in the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) have been awarded to various parties for carrying out further exploration in Mahanadi and NEC areas.