

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1212

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004

EXPLORATION OF OILFIELDS WITH THE HELP OF BACTERIA .

Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to explore oilfields with the help of bacteria; and

(b) if so, the details of progress made so far in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) : Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) uses microbial techniques for oil and gas prospecting. It has been using the Geo-microbial Survey Technique since 1989 and has standardized the technique which supplements other geoscientific inputs for exploratory decisions. ONGC has carried out Geomicrobial surveys in various areas of Cambay Basin, Assam-Arakan Basin, Cauvery Basin, South Rewa Basin, Himalayan foothills as well as Deep offshore sediments of Ratnagiri and Kutch-Saurashtra.

Oil India Limited (OIL) is also carrying out Geomicrobial studies for its Kashipur Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) areas in the Ganga Valley, through the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Assam.