

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
EXPLORATION OF NEW GAS AND OIL BLOCKS
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) the details of the survey for discovery of new gas and oil blocks conducted by the Government during 2007 so far, location-wise, company-wise;
- (b) the details of the: outcome of each of such survey;
- (c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Government on each of such surveys;
- (d) the details of achievements made from these surveys alongwith the quantity of oil and gas reserves discovered;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to explore such reserves; and
- (f) the time by which production from such blocks will be started?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO

(i) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 BY SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD AND SHRI SUGRIB SINGH TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16th AUGUST, 2007 REGARDING EXPLORATION OF NEW GAS OIL BLOCKS

During financial year 2006-07, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has carried out 9,751 km of 2D seismic, 24,172 sq. km of 3D seismic and drilled 87 exploratory wells in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu as well as in eastern and western offshore areas. Nine Oil & gas discoveries were made by ONGC in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and offshore areas including deepwater. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by ONGC in 2006-07 was about 170 Million Metric Tonnes of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (MMTOE). The exploration expenditure incurred by ONGC in 2006-07 was Rs. 4316.05 crore.

In 2006-07, Oil India Limited (OIL) has carried out 414 km of 2D seismic, 923 sq km of 3D seismic and drilled 9 exploratory wells in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Four oil & gas discoveries were made by OIL in Assam. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by OIL in 2006-07 was about 25 MMTOE. The exploration expenditure incurred by OIL in 2006-07 was Rs. 1044.16 crore.

In 2006-07, Private/JV Exploration and Production companies have carried out 2945 km of 2D seismic, 10225 Sq km of 3D seismic and drilled 111 exploratory wells in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan as well as in eastern and western offshore areas. 11 oil & gas discoveries were made by private / Joint Venture companies in Gujarat, Rajasthan and offshore areas including deepwater. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by private/JV companies in 2006-07 was about 193 MMTOE. The exploration expenditure incurred by private /JV companies in 2006-07 was Rs. 3105 crore.

In order to explore oil & gas in Indian sedimentary basins, Government of India has already awarded 162 exploration blocks in six bidding rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to national oil companies, private and foreign companies including 52 exploration blocks awarded in 2006-07. Under NELP, 43 oil & gas discoveries have been made and about 3 lakhs cubic metres of gas per day is being produced from one block of Gujarat. Gas production of 40 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) from Krishna Godavari Basin is likely to commence in July 2008, with peak production of 80 MMSCMD. Other discoveries made under NELP including in Mahanadi basin and off the coast of Orissa are under appraisal.

Normally, time taken for exploration of a block is about 3 to 8 years and development of oil & gas discoveries takes about 3 to 8 years depending upon the location of discovery, availability of infrastructure and markets in and around the discovery area.