

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:441
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
CRUDE OIL RESERVES BY 2011-12
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the Ninth Five Year Plan document has revealed that India would run out of crude oil reserves by the year 2011-12;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has drawn any contingency plan to face this situation;
- (c) whether the Government is working to find out new discoveries of crude oil reserves;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : As per the Ninth Five Year Plan Document, presuming no further discoveries are made, the hydrocarbon reserves of the country are unlikely to last beyond 2016 at the production levels of 2001-02. However, reserve accretion is a continuous and dynamic process, which keeps on adding to existing reserves depending upon new discoveries. As on 1.4.2004, balance recoverable Oil plus Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) is of the order of 1658 MMT.

(c) & (d) : Following steps have been/are being taken to discover more oil and gas in the country :

1. Opening of new areas for further exploration. A sedimentary area of about 1.96 Million square kilometers has been opened up for further exploration in consequence of reconnaissance surveys by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).
2. Enhanced exploration programmes of National Oil Companies in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.
3. Implementation of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with improved terms and conditions. 90 exploration blocks have been contracted to various companies in four rounds of bidding under NELP till now. Exploration work in NELP blocks has already led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.