

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
HYDRO-CARBON CHESS BOARDS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Petroleum Ministry are considering various moves on the global hydro-carbon chess board to get India's energy map right in line with the UPA Government's agenda for energy security;
- (b) whether India plans to spend over one billion dollar a year to acquire oilfields abroad but is facing stiff competition from China;
- (c) if so, whether Government has taken any decision in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which India will be in a position to put India's name on energy map of the world?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : To enhance the country's energy security in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL and GAIL, have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as the acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia and Ivory Coast. So far these oil companies have made investments of around US \$ 2,500 million in oil and gas projects abroad.

OVL in association with other oil sector PSUs, is aggressively scouting for E&P opportunities in countries such as Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Yemen, Qatar, Angola, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Ecuador in addition to efforts to acquire more E&P assets in the countries where it is operating currently. An outlay of Rs. 13,550 crore has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan for OVL's E&P activities abroad.

The international oil and gas acquisition arena is very competitive where oil companies from oil and gas deficit nations like China as also from developed countries pose a tough challenge to OVL.

(e) : For extending guidance and advice to Indian oil companies in their efforts to acquire equity oil abroad, Government have constituted an Advisory Committee on Oil Diplomacy for Energy Security comprising experts with specialized knowledge of the countries and regions with whom the oil companies are expected to interact.