

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3664
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
HELPFUL BACTERIA IN EXTRACTING OIL
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scientists of Energy and Resource Institute and Oil and Natural Gas Commission have found or developed such bacteria which helps in extracting oil from sick oil wells;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the extent to which the new technique has been helpful in revival of the sick oil wells;
- (e) the existing number of sick oil wells; and
- (f) the number out of them which have been benefited by this technique?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi have jointly developed microbes which help in improving the productivity from low producing oil wells. This technique is known as Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery(MEOR).

ONGC has tried the MEOR technique on an experimental basis in 26 low producing oil wells of Kalol, Limbodra, Sobhasan, North Kadi, Padra, Kosamba oilfields in Gujarat and Badarpur oilfield in Assam.

(d): MEOR technique is applicable for enhanced oil recovery from depleted oil wells and is not applied for revival of sick oil wells.

(e) & (f): Do not arise in view of (d) above.