

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3690

ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008

OIL EXPLORATION BY ONGC IN ARABIAN SEA AND BAY OF BENGAL

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

- (a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has made a lot of efforts for oil exploration in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal since 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount spent on these projects till date;
- (d) the details of the results achieved so far in respect of oil exploration; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made efforts for oil exploration in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal since 2000. In the Arabian Sea, the total exploratory inputs expended by ONGC from 2000 to 2008 (as on 01.04.2008) includes 57,959 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D seismic and 55776.6 square kilometre of 3D seismic data acquisition and drilling of 140 wells.

In the Eastern Offshore (including Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi, Bengal and Andaman basins) in Bay of Bengal, total exploratory inputs expended by ONGC from 2000 to 2008 (as on 01.04.2008) include 40,723 LK of 2D seismic and 54,168.5 square kilometre of 3D seismic data acquisition and drilling of 69 wells.

(c) The total expenditure on exploration (including depreciation) by ONGC during 2000-01 to 2006-07 in Arabian Sea was Rs. 8165.71 crores and in Bay of Bengal was Rs. 5774.85 crores.

(d) and (e) In the Arabian sea, out of total 140 wells drilled during 2000 to 2008 (as on 01.04.2008), 45 wells proved to be hydrocarbon bearing. Accretion made in terms of inplace hydrocarbons is 404.64 Million Metric Tone (MMT) of Oil and Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) as on 01.04.2007.

In the Bay of Bengal (including Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Mahanadi, Bengal and Andaman basins) out of 69 wells drilled, 32 proved to be hydrocarbon bearing. Accretion made in terms of inplace hydrocarbons is 186.83 MMT (O+OEG) as on 01.04.2007.