

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3716
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
F OIL WELLS BY ONGC
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of oil well drilled under the programme of drilling of oil well in 200 meters deep water by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation(ONGC) during the last 10 years;
- (b) the details relating to depth and area of each well, the expenditure involved therein along with the availability of oil and gas;
- (c) whether incentives and disincentives for the officers are attached with these success and failure of these programmes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): During last ten years (1997-2007) as on 01.04.2007 ONGC has drilled 49 offshore exploratory wells, out of which one well was drilled in the water depth of less than 200 m. The remaining 48 wells were drilled in more than 200 m water depth.

Out of the total 49 wells drilled in deepwater during the period (1997-2007), 34 wells were drilled in the KG offshore, two wells in Cauvey offshore, ten wells in western offshore and three wells were drilled in Mahanadi offshore. As a result of these efforts ONGC has made 18 discoveries in KG Offshore (Oil & Gas 2, Gas 16) and one gas discovery in Mahanadi offshore. The basin wise details regarding water depth, drilled depth and hydrocarbon status are indicated in Table-1.

(c) & (d): ONGC follows a rigorous procedure for release of exploratory locations (both in onland or offshore areas) wherein after detailed analysis and deliberation with the representative of concerned Basins/Institutes the proposal is put to the Director (Exploration) who is the final approving authority for release of these locations.

In ONGC there are set guidelines for approbation of good work and disapprobation for work not properly done and these guidelines are strictly adhered to. However, in case of exploration for oil and gas each basin has its own inherent problem and discovery of new fields is a matter of risk, size and the number of opportunities. Even with best efforts, the results are not always commensurate with the inputs, in any fixed time. The continuance of any exploratory effort is primarily guided by the prevailing geological knowledge, which is a dynamic process that involves rigorous refinement at every incremental stage of data acquisition, processing and interpretation; and is succeeded by data integration and model building. The identified prospective areas are then followed by exploratory drilling to confirm presence of hydrocarbon. The programme is further reviewed considering the leads/ geo-scientific data. Even when an exploratory well goes dry it provides significant sub-surface information that may lead to future prospect generation which eventually may prove hydrocarbon bearing. ONGC works with mandate of having direct responsibility of exploration and exploitation and it cannot concentrate solely on the prospective segment of the basin. With the responsibility of narrowing down the hydrocarbon demand-supply gap in the country, ONGC has to go in for high-risk ventures also.