

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1288

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2010

STRATEGY FOR HYDROCARBON SECTOR

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is planning to re-draw its strategy for dealing with the strong emergence of Chinese interests in the hydrocarbon sector in the African continent;
- (b) if so, the strategy adopted by the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to tap the hydrocarbon sector in the African continent;
- (d) the present imports of crude oil from African region, country-wise; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government for exploration of hydrocarbon reserve to ensure country's energy security?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c) A high level Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas recently visited Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda during 24th –28th January, 2010 in pursuit of strengthening ties which will help in hydrocarbon energy security efforts of India. Meetings were held with various dignitaries/ Ministers in these countries to pursue cooperation in hydrocarbon sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SONANGOL, the national oil company of Angola and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) on 27.01.2010 during the above-mentioned visit wherein both companies agreed to cooperate with each other in exploration and production of oil and gas in Angola, India and third countries.

(d): The import of crude oil from African region countries (country-wise) is as under: -

(Qty.in MMT)

S.No.	Name of Country	2008-09 (p)	2009-10 (Apr-Dec)
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1.	Algeria	0.263	1.303
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2.	Angola	4.872	4.658
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3.	Cameroon	0.113	0.093
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4.	Congo	0.247	0.797
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5.	Egypt	1.557	1.044
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6.	Equitorial Guinea	0.281	0.270
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7.	Gabon	0.418	-
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8. Ivory Coast 0.138 0.098

9. Libya 0.890 0.812

10. Nigeria 10.542 9.412

11. Sudan 0.772 0.769

T O T A L: 20.094 19.256

(e) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Coal Bed Methane (CBM).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(iv) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(v) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vi) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.