

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:290
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2010
DRILLING OPERATIONS BY ONGC
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling operations at Kerala-Konkan basin;
- (b) if so, the total number of oil wells drilled at Cochin High by ONGC;
- (c) the details of the scientific study conducted by ONGC on oil deposits in Cochin High;
- (d) whether any private sector companies have submitted proposal to the Government for oil exploration work at Cochin High; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.290 ASKED BY SHRI ANTO ANTHONY TO BE ANSWERED ON 15-04-2010 REGARDING DRILLING OPERATIONS BY ONGC

(a) & (b): ONGC has been engaged in the exploration activities in the region of Kerala- Konkan Offshore Basin, including areas of Cochin High since 1977. Till now, ONGC has drilled fourteen (14) exploratory wells which includes nine (9) in shallow water and five (5) in deep water areas.

(c): ONGC has done a study for the entire Kerala - Konkan Offshore Basin (including Cochin High) for establishing prognosticated reserves. As per this study, the envisaged geological resources for the entire Kerala - Konkan Offshore Basin (including Cochin High) are 660 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT). Exploratory efforts made in this basin to convert these resources into reserves have so far not resulted in establishment of hydrocarbons in commercial quantities.

(d) & (e): Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, nineteen (19) oil & gas exploration blocks have so far been awarded in Kerala - Konkan Offshore out of which eleven (11) blocks were awarded to ONGC, seven (7) blocks to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and one (1) block to BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pty. Limited. Till date, five (5) exploratory wells have been drilled in these blocks awarded under the PSC regime out of which four (4) wells are drilled by ONGC and one well by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

Under NELP VIII round, 13 blocks were offered for bidding in Kerala Konkan offshore and deepwater area. Bids have been received for 2 (two) blocks.