

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2667  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009  
EXPLORATION OF NEW OILFIELDS BY OVL.  
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) proposes to go for new oilfields discovery in the countries like Vietnam, Syria, Nigeria and Egypt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the nature and kind of investment planned for these projects abroad;
- (d) the details of roadmap if any, outlined for these projects; and
- (e) The volume of crude oil exported so far to India from Egypt, whose new oilfield was discovered in April 2007 by OVL in collaboration with IPR Energy Red Sea Inc.?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) pursues acquisition/ Participation Interest (PI) opportunities in Hydrocarbon rich countries including Vietnam, Syria, Nigeria and Egypt.. The existing operations are enumerated as under:

Vietnam:

OVL has two exploration blocks (127 &128) in offshore Vietnam, with an area of 9,246 sq km & 7058 sq km respectively. OVL holds 100% PI in these blocks.

Syria

OVL has drilled three Exploratory wells in Block – 24 and one of them Rashid-1 is Oil Discovery well and it plans to drill two more Exploration wells in Block-24 Syria.

Nigeria:

ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) a joint venture company between OVL and Mittal Investment Sarl holds two offshore exploration blocks viz. OPL-279 & OPL-285.

For OPL 279 the consortium partners are OMEL (45.5%), TOTAL ((14.5%) and Emo exploration (40%). OMEL and TOTAL will be carrying Emo Exploration till the "first oil".

For OPL 285 the consortium partners are OMEL (64.33%) TOTAL (25.67%) and Emo Exploration (10%).

Nigeria JDZ Block2

OVL acquired 9% stake in Block 2, Nigeria-Sao Tome JDZ through ONGC Narmada Limited (100% subsidiary of OVL registered in Nigeria) in a joint bidding for the block. A' and Hatman which was awarded 10% interest in the block, farmed out 4.5% interest to OVL and 3% to Equator Exploration Limited. OVL agreed to carry the company for 12.5% interest, the resultant stake of OVL in the block is 13.5%(paying share 15%).

Egypt:

Participating Interest in North Ramadan Block, Gulf of Suez, Egypt for OVL and IPR is 70% and 30% respectively. It is in first Exploration Extension Phase effective from 8th Feb 09 to 7th August 2010. OVL has plans to drill an Exploration well in this block.

NEMED Block:

The partners in the Block are Shell with 51% PI as operator, OVL with 33% and Petronas with 16% PI. Development options have not been finalised.

Further plans/investments in above countries have not been finalised and will depend on the operations cited above.

(e): OVL has stakes in North Ramadan Block and NEMED Block in Egypt, from where commercial production has not commenced.

