

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:566

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010

INVESTMENT IN OIL BLOCKS IN WEST AFRICAN NATIONS

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make investment in developing oil blocks in the West African nations;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with African countries including Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in the recent past;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the deals finalized by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI PEORA)

(a) to (d): Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in oil and gas sector are interested to make investment in developing oil blocks in the west African countries based on commercial viability. 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. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has been interacting with Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for participation in Nigerian gas sector opportunities.