

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1861
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010
OIL EXPLORATION BY ONGC AT COCHIN HIGH
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to stop oil exploration work by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation at Cochin High;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to grant approval to the State Government of Kerala for the oil exploration work at Cochin High;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government has received any application in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : No, Madam. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is presently continuing its exploration activities as operator in three (3) deep water blocks awarded under New Exploration & Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds. These blocks are in and around Cochin High area in Kerala-Konkan Offshore basin.

The exploration blocks are awarded through International Competitive Bidding through NELP bidding rounds in which National Oil Companies (NOCs) / State Government Companies can participate along with Private and Foreign Companies on equal terms and conditions.

(d) and (e): No reference from the State Government of Kerala has been received on this subject.