

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:741

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010

WITHDRAWAL OF ONGC VIDESH LIMITED FROM NORTH COAST MARINE AREA

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has withdrawn from North Cost Marine Area project in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for withdrawal of ONGC Videsh Limited from the said project; and
- (d) the details of expenditure so far incurred by ONGC Videsh Limited in the project?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) alongwith Mittal Investment Sarl (MIS) promoted ONGC Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL), a Joint Venture company incorporated in Cyprus. OMEL submitted bid for the exploration block North Coast Marine Area (NCMA)-2 in the 2006 bid round of Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) and was declared winner. Although the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) was signed on the 30th December, 2008, it was kept in Escrow due to disagreement on carry arrangement of Petrotrin, the National Oil Company of T&T.

(c): In view of global economic situation and inability to finalize the carry agreement with Petrotrin, the joint venture partner MIS withdrew from the project in 2009. As no partners were available, OVL decided not to continue on 100% standalone basis and withdrew from the Block NCMA-2.

(d): OVL's share of expenditure incurred in the project since inception was approximately US\$ 1.06 Million.