

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:887
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR OIL SPILL IN HIGH SEAS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the wake of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico the Government has carried out any exercise to determine its own preparedness to combat such an eventuality on high seas;
- (b) if so, the measures in place at various public and private oil exploration installations on the Indian High Seas to prevent an eventuality of this nature;
- (c) whether the Government has the institutional capacity to deal with an oil spill of the gulf on Mexico magnitude;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the maximum depth at which offshore drilling is taking place on Indian High Seas;
- (f) the arrangements have been made for the safety and security of offshore oil installations given the heightened threat perception in the region due to terrorist activity; and
- (g) the manner in which the nodal agency to coordinate security of offshore oil installations?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) The Government has undertaken a review of its preparedness to counter such an eventuality on the high seas in a meeting held recently with all concerned agencies viz., Ministry of Environment and Forests, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons(DGH), Oil Industries Safety Directorate(OISD), Indian Coast Guard, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation(ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and other Private E & P Companies operating in Indian offshore to review offshore safety issues and the Disaster Management Plans as also to suggest way forward for formulating mitigation measures in the event of oil spill crisis in high seas/offshore area of the country. Following are the main outcome of discussions:

All operators should be prepared for any contingencies and there should not be any compromise or cost cutting on safety related issues.

The compliance to High Sea Exploration (HSE) Audit observations should be done by the operators and their safety standards should be adequate and .of international level.

(b) Under the PSC regime, the drilling rigs/vessels deployed by the Contractors for exploratory locations, have their own HSE Management Systems. Periodic inspection and maintenance of safety critical equipments such as well control equipments, fire and gas detectors, fire fighting equipments and life saving appliances are part of the Safety Management System. Further, the rigs are periodically audited for HSE compliance.

(c) & (d) The Government has in place 'National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) for which Indian Coast Guard is the coordinating authority.

(e) The maximum water depth at which a well has been drilled is about 2841m.The exploratory well UD-1 was drilled to a total depth of 6576M (including water depth of 2841m) in the deepwater block KG-DWN-98/2 in East Coast, operated by an ONGC led Consortium.

(f) and (g) The nodal agency for security of the offshore installation is Indian Navy. The Indian Navy with the help of the Indian Coast Guards and other State Security agencies keeps constant air and surface surveillance of these installations.