

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4938

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND HUNGARY FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

(a) whether India and Hungary signed an agreement for oil and gas exploration;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements signed and the extent to which both the countries have agreed to cooperate in oil exploration;
and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to improve the energy security of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c). Yes, Madam. An MOU for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector has been signed in January, 2008 between MOL, Hungarian Oil and Gas Plc., the Hungarian oil company and the India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

Following signing of MOU, a proposal for assignment of 35% participating interest in Block HF-ONN-2001/1 (an exploration block in Himalayan Foothill) to BMN investment Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Plc., was approved by the Government of India on 27th July,2009.

As MOL has experience of working in similar geological setting elsewhere, this partnership helps in exploration activities in the aforesaid Block located in Himalayan Foothills.