

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1541

ANSWERED ON:18.11.2010

EXPLORATION IN GUJARAT BY AUSTRALIAN OIL EXPLORATION COMPANY

Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether the Australian Oil Exploration Company Oilex Limited has found huge gas reserves in Khambhat region of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this company has conducted exploration work in other areas of Khambhat region as well;
- (d) the names of the areas where drilling work is being undertaken;and
- (e) the time by which the commercial production of gas is likely to commence in Khambhat region?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Under the Production Sharing Contract regime, the Cambay field in Kheda district of Khambhat region in Gujarat is being operated by M/s Oilex NL Holdings (India) Limited, an Australia based E & P Company. No new gas discovery has been made by M/s Oilex in this field. However, the Operator M/s Oilex submitted that based on their evaluation/interpretation of old processed logs recorded in wells drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) earlier, the In-Place 2P (proved + probable) reserves of Cambay field is to the tune of 384 Billion Cubic Feet (BCF) as against the reserves of 273 BCF agreed by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). The reported increase in reserves has not yet been approved by DGH/Management Committee (MC).

(c): Under the PSC regime, there is no other field/block awarded to M/s Oilex in the Khambhat region.

(d) & (e): The Operator M/s Oilex has submitted proposal to drill two wells in the Cambay field during 2011-12. The same have not yet been approved by the MC. The commercial production of gas will depend upon the results of drilling of wells, establishing reserves & subsequent approval of Commerciality & Field Development Plan by the MC.