

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1548
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2010
INVESTMENT BY OIL COMPANIES IN SUDAN
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan

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

- (a) whether India has expressed its keenness to invest in oil projects of Sudan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is expected to use its expertise in the oil projects of Sudan;
- (d) if so the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the said tie-up would effect the economy of both the countries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In a recent Ministerial meeting held in New Delhi, India and Sudan have expressed desire to further expand cooperation in the oil & gas sector. Indian Oil Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) expressed keen desire to further invest in the hydrocarbon sector of Sudan. In the meeting, Sudanese side made a detailed presentation on forthcoming investment opportunities in Sudan.

(c) to (e): During the bi-lateral meetings, it was inter-alia mentioned that Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s expertise in enhancing production in the existing fields could be utilized by Sudan. ONGC's Exploration and Production (E&P) experts are already working in the Greater Nile Oil Project in Sudan. This has helped in more effective exploration & exploitation of hydrocarbons. The mutual co-operation between the two countries is expected to enhance exploitation of hydrocarbon reserves effectively, which would in turn impact positively in the growth and development of economies of both the countries.