

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5032

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010

ACQUISITION OF OIL AND GAS ASSETS IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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

- (a) whether the Government had decided to turn its focus from the OPEC countries to the African nations for acquisition of oil and gas assets to meet surging energy requirements of the country;
- (b) if so, whether any dialogue has been held with the African nations in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether any success has been achieved in this regard so far; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the energy security of the country?

Answer

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

(a): Public Sector Undertakings in oil and gas sector are interested to make investments for acquisition of oil and gas assets in African countries based on commercial viability. These companies are looking at opportunities in countries like Nigeria, Angola, Sudan, Ghana and Uganda. The four oil rich African countries namely, Nigeria, Angola, Libyan Arab Jamhuriya and Algeria are also Members of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC).

(b) & (c): Bi-annual India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference was held in 2007 and 2009 to bring together the oil and gas companies of India and Africa hydrocarbon industry for mutual cooperation.

A high level Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda in January, 2010 to provide an impetus to the energy security efforts of India.

As a result of these engagements, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sonangol, the national oil company of Angola on 27th January, 2010 to co-operate in Exploration and Production (E&P) of oil and gas. Similarly, an MoU between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Petroleum of Angola for promoting bilateral cooperation was signed on 01st November, 2010. The salient features of the MoU included:-

- (i) Augmenting supply of crude oil and exploring possibility of supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Angola,
- (ii) Participation in E&P of hydrocarbon resources in onshore and offshore blocks in Angola,
- (iii) Assist in the development of refining and natural gas infrastructure in Angola on commercial principles.
- (iv) Training programmes for Angolan technical personnel in E&P and refining activities.

(d): Government is securing energy needs of the country through various measures including enhanced domestic exploration and production activities and acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.