

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:55
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
OIL EXPLORATION AT COCHIN HIGH
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has given approval to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to carry out oil exploration work at Kerala-Konkan Offshore Basin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the results of oil exploration work carried out by ONGC at Cochin High last year and the amount spent thereon so far; and
- (d) the further steps being taken to intensify the exploratory operations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts

(a) to

(d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 55 for on 24.02.2011 regarding 'Oil exploration at Cochin-High'

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been awarded 11 exploration blocks in Kerala-Konkan Basin. Of these, six blocks have been relinquished by ONGC. The list of the blocks awarded is annexed.

(c) During the year 2009-10, ONGC has acquired 4226 Line Kilometer(LKM) of 2D seismic and drilled 2 exploratory wells in blocks awarded in Kerala-Konkan Basin. The wells proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons and abandoned.

The amount spent for exploration work at Cochin-High upto 31.12.2010 is Rs. 1394 crore.

(d) In order to intensify exploration activities in Kerala-Konkan Basin, Government of India has offered 40 exploration blocks in shallow and deepwater area in Kerala-Konkan Basin under eight rounds of NELP held so far. Out of these, 19 exploration blocks were awarded to different operators. Currently, 8 blocks are operational. Exploration activities are ongoing in these blocks.

Further, under NELP -IX round, one deepwater and 3 shallow water blocks in Kerala- Konkan Basin are under offer for bidding.