

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5971  
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011  
OIL EXPLORATION  
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation were awarded eleven blocks for exploration in the Kerala-Konkan basin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any substantial progress in drilling process of oil exploration work at Cochin High; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of wells digged so far and the funds spent thereupon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract(PSC) regime, 19 exploration blocks were awarded in Kerala-Konkan basin in shallow and deepwater area. Out of these, 11 exploration blocks were awarded to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and its Consortium Partners. So far, 7 blocks have been relinquished by ONGC and 4 blocks are currently operational. The details of blocks awarded to ONGC are annexed.

(c) & (d) So far, total seven exploratory wells (6 wells by ONGC and 1 well by Reliance Industries Limited) have been drilled in six of the awarded blocks in Kerala-Konkan Basin (Cochin High). No hydrocarbon discovery has been made till date.

Exploration expenditure to the tune of Rs. 1881 crores has been made for carrying out exploration activities in the above six blocks, including exploratory drilling.