

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1838
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
OIL EXPLORATION AT COCHIN HIGH
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of oil exploration at Cochin High;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to expedite the work at Cochin High;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the details of exploration blocks offered to various companies at Cochin High during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has processed the datum collected from the digged wells at Cochin High; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of state for PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, so far 19 exploration blocks were awarded in Kerala-Konkan basin in shallow and deepwater area (Cochin High). Out of these, 12 Blocks have been relinquished and 7 blocks are currently operational.

So far, 49,865 LKM of 2D seismic and 11,102 Sq. Km of 3D seismic data have been acquired and 7 exploratory wells have been drilled in the awarded blocks. So far an exploration investment to the tune of US\$ 485 Million has been incurred by the Contractors. No hydrocarbon discovery has been made till date.

As far as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is concerned it is presently holding three deepwater NELP blocks, namely, KK-DWN-2002/2, KK-DWN- 2002/3 and KK-DWN-2005/2. As on 01.10.2011, total exploratory inputs expended by ONGC in these blocks include acquisition of 8135.9 LK of 2D data, 2677.2 sq km of 3D seismic data and drilling of one exploratory well. However, the well which was drilled in block KK-DWN-2002/3 was found to be dry and the block has been proposed for relinquishment.

(b) & (c) In order to continue exploration efforts in Kerala-Konkan Basin Government has offered 4 blocks in this basin under the latest round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding, i.e. NELP IX. Out of these, 1 block is in deepwater and 3 blocks are in shallow water area. Bids have been received for all the blocks.

(d) Under the PSC regime, two blocks were awarded under NELP VII round of bidding in Kerala-Konkan Basin during the last three years as under:

Block Name	Area Awarded (Sq. Km)	Consortium	Date of Signing Contract
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KK-DWN-2005/1	14,675	BHP BILLITON	22.12.2008
(26%) & GVK (74%)			

KK-DWN-2005/2	19,234	ONGC (90%) & GSPC (10%)	22.12.2008
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(e) & (f) Under the PSC regime, data required by the Contractors in the awarded blocks from drilled wells are processed and interpreted by the Contractors. So far, no hydrocarbon prospect has been identified based on the data obtained after drilling of wells.

ONGC has carried out Geological and Geophysical (G&G) studies by integrating all the data collected from wells drilled in Cochin High area. Data and results of G&G studies are being integrated with seismic data acquired in the available blocks to identify prospects for drilling.

