

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3359

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

OIL EXPLORATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

Kashyap Shri Virender;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indian public sector oil company ONGC-Videsh Limited is working on a major investment project for exploration of petrol and gas near Vietnam's coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some private Indian companies have also signed an agreement for exploration of oil in South China Sea; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) Yes. It is working for exploration and production of oil and gas in off-shore blocks off Vietnam's coast.
- (c) & (d) Yes. Essar Exploration and Production Ltd (EEPL), an Indian company has signed a contract for an off-shore block off Vietnam's coast.