

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1540
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012
SURRENDER OF ONSHORE BLOCK BY ONGC
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has surrendered onshore block in West Bengal and also abandoned two Coal Bed Methane blocks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the date on which the onshore block was allotted to ONGC and the number of years for which ONGC carried out exploration activities in the said block;
- (d) whether the ONGC had completed drilling therein as per the schedule; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has relinquished onland block WB-ONN-2000/1, awarded under second bidding round of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP) and Contai onshore nomination block.

ONGC has also relinquished three Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks namely ST-CBM-2003/II (Satpura, Madhya Pradesh), WD-CBM-2003/II (Wardha, Maharashtra) and BS(3)-CBM-2003/II (Barmer-Sanchor, Gujarat) awarded under second bidding round of CBM Policy.

(b) The NELP and CBM blocks were relinquished by ONGC (in line with the provisions laid down in the Contracts), citing poor prospectivity of hydrocarbon/CBM in these blocks.

Contai nomination block was relinquished by ONGC as hydrocarbon prospectivity was not established.

(c) The Production Sharing Contract(PSC) for the block WB-ONN-2000/1 was signed on 17.07.2001 The entire block was relinquished on 28.09.2003 (i.e after two years), after completion of acquisition, processing and interpretation (API) of 100 Line Kilo Meter (LKM) of 2D seismic data as per the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) of Phase -I. The Contai block was awarded to ONGC on 22.08.1997. This block was relinquished on 21.08.2011.

(d) & (e) ONGC has not drilled any well in the block WB-ONN-2000/1 as the block was relinquished after completion of Phase-I and MWP of Phase-I did not contain drilling of exploratory wells.

ONGC completed the drilling in Contai nomination block as per schedule.