

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
EXPLORATION OF OIL IN CAUVERY BASIN
Baal Thiru Thalikkottai Rajuthevar

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

- (a) the status of the oil exploration efforts in the Cauvery offshore basin where several seismic surveys have been completed;
- (b) the estimate of oil and gas reserves in the Cauvery offshore basin alongwith the constraints if any, in locating gas reserves in the areas;
- (c) whether the Government has any concrete plan including deepwater drilling in the basin to tap the gas and oil potential as was done in the adjacent Krishna Godavari (KG) basin;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF-LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 397 SHRI T.R.BAALU TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.7.2009 REGARDING EXPLORATION OF OIL IN CAUVERY BASIN

(a) to (d): Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), as well as Pvt/JV companies, are operating in the Cauvery offshore basin. Government has awarded 14 exploration blocks, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), in order to accelerate exploration in the country. In addition, two exploration blocks were awarded, one each in nomination and pre NFXP regime. As on 1,4.2009. ONGC has acquired 41277 line km (LKM) of 2D seismic, 1963 sq. km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 55 exploratory wells in nomination regime. As a result of exploratory efforts, ONGC has made four hydrocarbon discoveries in Cauvery offshore basin. Pvt/JV companies have acquired 57819 of 2D seismic, 8892 sq. km. of 3D seismic and drilled 16 exploratory wells. Pvt/JV companies have made 2 hydrocarbon discoveries in the Cauvery offshore basin.

In-place gas reserves established by ONGC in Cauvery offshore basin are 1.71 billion cubic metre. The hydrocarbon reserves established by Pvt/JV companies in Cauvery offshore basin are 13.92 million metric tonne of oil equivalent.

Government of India has already awarded 10 deepwater exploration blocks in Cauvery offshore basin under NELP. In one of these blocks i.e. CY-DWN-2001/2, the operator has made one hydrocarbon discovery.