

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2738

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

EXPLORATION OF OIL

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether there are immense opportunities for India for exploration of oil blocks in the waters that separates India and Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, whether any meeting has been held between the two countries to discuss the possibilities of exploration of oil blocks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the future strategy to be adopted by the Government to gain priority in oil exploration blocks in Sri Lanka over other countries?

Answer

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

(a). There are opportunities for exploration of oil & gas blocks in the waters that separate India and Sri Lanka. Our oil PSUs have undertaken examination of the available opportunities in exploration of oil & gas blocks in the Gulf of Mannar and Cauvery basin in the vicinity of Indian shoreline, subject to the prospectivity.

(b) to (d). The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is engaged in meetings and discussions at different levels, with various countries, including Sri Lanka, for acquiring oil & gas assets and deepening cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector to strengthen the country's energy security. India's oil PSUs are being encouraged to pursue cooperation and collaboration opportunities offered by the Sri Lanka's oil & gas sector for the mutual benefit of both countries.