

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
CONTRACT FOR EXPLORATION
Ram Shri Purnmasi;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) the details of exploration blocks awarded in Bihar under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) in oil and gas sector since 2007-08;
- (b) whether contracts have also been awarded for exploration of Oil and Natural Gas reserves in Kosi and Gandak basin in Bihar;
- (c) whether the exploration work in one of the wells was relinquished and if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the number of drillings and the places drilled during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the outcome of the efforts made so far and the indications received for future?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

A Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 267 asked by Shri Jagadanand Singh and Shri Purnmasi Ram to be answered on 30.08.2012 regarding contract for exploration.

(a) and (b). So far three exploration blocks have been awarded in the State of Bihar under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). One exploration block has been awarded in Bihar since 2007-08 under the seventh bidding round of NELP. Two other exploration blocks were awarded in Bihar before 2007-08 under various rounds of NELP. Out of the three blocks awarded under NELP, two blocks are in the Ganga Basin and one in Purnea Basin. Gandak Basin area falls within the Ganga Basin area and Kosi Basin falls partly in the western part of the Purnea Basin area.

(c). The exploration block, GV-ONN-2002/1 in Ganga Basin in Bihar, operated by Cairn Energy India Limited has been relinquished after completion of Phase-I activities as no hydrocarbon prospect was found after drilling the exploratory well Havidih#1 in January, 2009. The exploration activities in other two blocks are in progress.

(d). During last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12), no exploratory well has been drilled in the blocks awarded under NELP in Bihar. However, in the current year, 2012-13, drilling of one exploratory well has commenced on 16.08.2012 in the block, PA-ONN-2004/1, operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) with a drilling target depth of 4,200 meters.

(e). One exploratory well drilled by Cairn Energy India Limited in the block GV-ONN-2002/1 did not show any hydrocarbon prospect. Currently, one well is under drilling by ONGC in the block PA-ONN-2004/1 in the State of Bihar and the presence of hydrocarbons, if any, will be known only after completion of the ongoing drilling activity. The exploration activity in block GV-ONN-2005/3 is currently under progress.