

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1043  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012  
EXPLORATION BY OVL  
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the status of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) oil exploration efforts overseas alongwith the quantum of equity oil and gas it has been able to contract and how much of it has been explored;
- (b) the contribution of such efforts of OVL to the energy security of the country;
- (c) whether India has withdrawn from exploration in the Vietnamese waters block 128 in the South China Sea;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether the OVL withdrew from this oil block after China issued a demarche stating that China's permission must be sought for exploration of blocks 127 and 128;
- (e) the details of various public sector companies including OVL engaged in exploration in the South/East china Sea, oil and gas field wise; and
- (f) the number of such blocks which are in the disputed zones and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

- (a): As on date, ONGC Videsh Limited(OVL) is associated with 08 exploration blocks as operator and 07 blocks as non-operator under various Production Sharing Contracts(PSC). Volume of equity oil and gas depends on outcome of exploration.
- (b): Currently, ONGC Videsh Limited(OVL) has oil and gas production from 10 Assets in 08 countries and during financial year 2011-2012, OVL has produced 8.753 Million Metric Tonne of Oil and Oil Equivalent(MMTtoE) of oil and oil equivalent gas. This is contributing to the energy security of India. OVL is persistently, making efforts for additional acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad.
- (c); No Madam. India has not withdrawn from the Block 128.
- (d): Does not arise in view of answer to (e).
- (e): OVL is engaged in exploration block 128 in the South China sea.
- (f); Two blocks (Exploration Block 128 and Production Block 6.1) fall under such disputed zones.