

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:355

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012

EXPLORATION IN RIVER BASIN

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

- (a) the names of the river basins in the country where exploration work is being carried out along with the status of exploration work in the Mahanadi basin of Paradeep, Odisha by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);
- (b) the details of surveys conducted for exploration in various river basins of the country;
- (c) whether the Government has made a review with regard to the progress in oil exploration work and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the status of laying pipeline infrastructure to serve the industries in Odisha along with the time-frame by which the same is likely to be completed; and
- (e) the details of the number of blocks awarded for exploration in Bihar under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) during the last three years and the number of such blocks where drilling has not been started so far along with the status of exploration in the GV/ONN-2005/3 and PA-ONN-2004/1 by ONGC?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is presently carrying out exploratory work in Cauvery, Ganga, Krishna-Godavari, Palar and Pennar basins. As on date ONGC does not hold any exploration acreage in Mahanadi basin around Paradeep and Odisha.
- (b) In order to identify the prospective area for hydrocarbon exploration, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) been conducting geo-scientific surveys in both onland and offshore area. Following surveys have so far been carried out by DGH:-
 - # Reconnaissance Aeromagnetic Survey in Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Kutch offshore.
 - # Reconnaissance Megneto-Telluric Survey in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and part of Karnataka.
 - # 2D Seismic survey in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, West Coast and 2D seismic with Gravity Magnetic Survey in East and Andaman-Nicobar.
 - # Integrated Geophysical survey in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
 - # Gravity Magnetic Survey in Madhya Pradesh.
 - # Analysis of Aerial images/Remote sensing data in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
 - # Geochemical Survey in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.
 - # Satellite Gravity Survey in Western and Eastern offshore and controlled Source Electro-Magnetic (CSEM) survey in Eastern offshore.
- (c) DGH periodically reviews the progress of exploration works under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime in Technical Committee Meetings (TCMs), site visits and advises for mid-course correction, if any. Further, the overall progress is also reported from time to time by the operators in the Management Committee Meetings (MCMs), and actions, if any, is decided by the Management Committee of the respective blocks.
- (d) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has awarded grant of authorization to M/s GAIL (India) Limited for laying, building, operating or expanding Surat-Paradip natural gas pipeline passing through various districts of Odisha. As per the terms and conditions of the authorization, the project is likely to be completed by 2015-16.
- (e) No exploration block under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding round was awarded in the State of Bihar during the last three years i.e. from 2009-10 to 2011-12. So far, 3 nos. NELP blocks were awarded in the State of Bihar in various rounds of bidding. After drilling 1 well, exploration block GV-ONN-2002/1 in Bihar was relinquished. Further, 1 well is currently under drilling in exploration block PA-ONN-2004/1 in Bihar. In the third exploration block in Bihar, GV-ONN-2005/3, exploration works under Minimum Work Programme (MWP) has been completed, which did not include any drilling of well.