

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:374

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012

LEAKAGE FROM ONGC OIL WELL

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether there has been a leakage of oil from the oil well of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the Bay of Bengal off the Andhra Coast recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the quantum of gas loss estimated therefrom and the environmental damage caused as a result thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to control the leakage and the resultant environmental damage?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. There has been leakage of gas from an offshore well in KG Basin of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC) in the Bay of Bengal off the Andhra Coast recently. The sub-sea well G-1-AA (G-1#9) is located at a distance of 30 km from the Amalapuram Coast in the G-1 prospect at water depth of 252m. Gas was leaking from the top of X-mas tree installed on the well head. Gas bubbles were observed by ONGC owned offshore drilling rig 'sagar Vijay' on 30th August, 2012 in offshore G-1 block east coast. This location is approximately 30 Nautical miles from sea coast. The source of leakage was identified as a temporarily abandoned well G-1-9, in water depth of 260 meters. The reason is likely loss of integrity of bridge plugs in the well.

(c) The quantum of gas loss could not be estimated as the leakage is happening at a depth of 252 m. Only gas was leaking and there has been no major pollution and damage to the environment. All precautionary measures were taken to arrest any eventuality of damage. The flora & fauna is intact as there were no traces of dead fishes in the area. The gas leakage has stopped from 7.11.2012.

(d) Immediately after identification of leaking sub-sea well on 01.11.2012, action plan was made by ONGC in consultation with international experts M/s Boots & Coots for capping the well with BOP stack assembly at the bottom of sea. The assembly has been fabricated and ready for installation. Operations got affected due to Neelam storm on east coast and subsequent bad weather. There is no significant resultant environmental damage due to leakage.

The capping stack has been lowered on the X-mas tree on 17.11.2012. Further clamping operations could not be completed due to bad weather due to cyclonic conditions. This would be completed once the weather improves.