

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3581

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

PRODUCTION BY ONGC

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has started production from the deepwater block KG-DWN-98/2;
- (b) if so, the details of production so far and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the ONGC proposes to enter into partnership with certain international exploration and production companies for development of the aforesaid block;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by ONGC in this regard so far; and
- (e) the details of criteria fixed for selection of such international companies and the likely time frame by which the partnership is likely to be finalised?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has not started production from the deep water block KG-DWN-98/2 as the appraisal drilling programme is underway.

(c) to (e) ONGC intends to enter into partnership with international Exploration and Production (E&P) companies to carry out developmental activities in the block as the development ventures in deep water are capital and technology intensive.

ONGC has approached international E&P companies, having experience of working in deep waters, for possible joint venture in the block.

The criteria for partnership to support and share the risk in the deep water block with ONGC, is that suitable company(ies) of international repute having expertise in deepwater exploration and exploitation are invited to farm-in into the block. After the initial data assessment/viewing is carried out by the company, a concrete offer is made by the company which is discussed and mutually agreed between the ONGC and the said company. Subsequently, the process for obtaining Government approval is undertaken. This entire process takes about 8-12 months'time.