

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:185

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

OIL DRILLING RIGS OPERATED BY ONGC

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

- (a) the details of Oil drilling rigs being operated by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the country as on date;
- (b) whether any safety audit of these rigs has been done by the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the OISD;
- (d) whether the ONGC has been operating these rigs without adequate safety standards;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for ignoring the off-shore safety rules by the ONGC; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government for the safety of employees of ONGC working in oil drilling rigs?

Answer

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

(a) In offshore, 09 Company Owned and 30 Chartered Hired Drilling Rigs are being operated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

In onland 68 Company owned and 13 Chartered Hired Drilling Rigs are being operated by ONGC.

(b) & (c) Yes. In offshore, Safety audit of 20 offshore drilling rigs operated by ONGC (5 Company Owned and 15 Chartered Hired Rigs) have been carried out during the last three years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 and the current year 2012-13 (upto 15th February, 2013) and major audit observations include as under:

1. Consent to operate is pending for want of "fit-for-purpose certification" of ONGC rigs.
2. Blow out preventers (BOP) re-certification is pending.
3. More number of exhaustive safety audits needs to be carried out internally by ONGC to rectify critical safety lapses which are being observed in various OISD audits.
4. During drilling in 20" casing, only 21 1/4" Annular BOP is installed. Two ram BOP's or one annular & one ram BOP should be used in this phase of drilling. Diverter should be used while drilling top section.
5. Excessive corrosion is observed at ONGC owned rigs. There is delay in docking/major lay up repairs. As a result, many of the essential major repair activities are being done in the field resulting in poor housekeeping and unsafe work areas.
6. System for monitoring of oil content in effluent water discharge is not available to ensure oil Parts Per Million (ppm) as per Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) stipulations.
7. ONGC completion and production testing personnel on board chartered hired rigs should have valid well intervention well control training.

Regarding Onland Rigs, Safety audit of 46 drilling rigs operated by ONGC have been carried out during the last three years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 and the current year 2012-13 (upto 15th February, 2013) and the major audit observations include following:

1. Fire fighting system should be as per applicable OISD standard. The deficiencies should be addressed immediately.
2. Drills should be based on emergency scenarios, and carried out as per documented step-wise guidelines. It should be conducted during odd hours also.
3. Health check or rig mast, structure & substructure should be carried out to confirm 'fit for purpose' status.

4. Contractor employees' safety should be emphasized. Bridging documents between organization and contractor to be available.
5. Statutory guidelines related to disposal of drilling fluids and drill cuttings should be complied with.
6. On drilling & work over rigs supervisory level personnel should have valid well control training certificate.

(d) & (e) None of the 9 ONGC owned offshore drilling rigs have 'fit for purpose' certification for rig equipment and 8 of the Company owned offshore drilling rigs do not have certified BOPs, 3 chartered hired offshore drilling rigs of ONGC do not have certified/tested BOPs.

All the rigs operate with mandatory class certification which is a primary requirement of safety of Rigs in offshore. All 9 ONGC owned rigs are under class certification for safe operation and complying all the statutory safety requirements applicable from time to time. All 9 ONGC owned rigs were under operation prior to commencement of the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore operations) Rules, 2008 and need to obtain consent to operate from OISD under "already operating mobile offshore installation" category. The rigs are old and scheduled for overhaul/ dry dock repairs. Some of the Rigs are under capital overhaul/ repairs to obtain 'fit for purpose certification'. The Rigs needs to be taken up for capital overhaul in phased manner without hampering operation.

The following schedule has already been submitted to OISD for obtaining consent to operate:

1. 3 jack up Rigs and 1 drill ship by April 2013 (out of these 3 Rigs, the request for consent to operate of Rig Sagar Ratna has already been sent to OISD)
2. 1 Jack up Rig and 1 drill ship by June 2013
3. 2 Jack up Rigs by August 2013
4. 1 Jack up Rig will be converted in to Mobile Offshore Production Unit (MOPU).

Three hired rigs were given conditional consent to operate. The condition of third party witnessing of functional test of all the BOPs of these hired rigs is in progress and likely to be completed by March 2013.

(f) The following are the corrective measures taken by OISD/the Government for safety of the employees working on offshore drilling rigs:

1. Compliance with the Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules notified in June, 2008;
2. OISD carries out periodic safety audits of offshore installations to ensure safety of employees working on drilling rigs. Focus area of the audit includes:

Blow Out Preventer certification/recertification

Well control training to key rig personnel

Upkeep of Safety Critical Equipment (Personnel protection devices, Equipment safety, Fire & Gas system, Life saving and fire fighting appliances)

Bridging document between the operator (ONGC) and drilling contractor, for interface management on chartered hired rigs

Adherence to Permit to Work system

Standard operating procedures

Competency of rig personnel

3. Compliance with safety audit observations is being monitored quarterly and deficiencies are brought to the notice of company's management. Also, compliance status is taken up in OISD's Steering Committee meetings and Ministry's Safety Council meetings.