

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5061
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013
EXPLORATION IN RAJASTHAN OILFIELDS
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) which has a 30 per cent stake in Cairn India-operated Rajasthan Oilfields, has refused to share the cost of further exploration in the block to increase oil output by over 70 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Cairn India has already taken steps to mobilize a rig at the location and expects to drill the first exploration well in the recent times; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAACA LAKSHMI)

a) & b): ONGC is the Licensee of the block RJ-ON-90/1 block in Rajasthan, operated by Cairn India Limited (CIL) and also has 30% Participating Interest (PI) in the Development Areas of this block. In the Management Committee Meeting held on 14.02.2013, ONGC submitted that they are in agreement with the proposed exploration activities to be undertaken in the Mining Lease (ML) area of the block. However, as far as sharing of cost of such exploration activities are concerned, it was submitted by ONGC that ONGC is the Licensee of the block and is not part of Contract for such exploration operations. The Management Committee has reviewed ONGC's views in this regard.

c) & d): The Management Committee of RJ-ON-90/1 block on 14.02.2013 has reviewed work programme to drill 3 exploratory wells in the block during FY 2012-13. So far, one exploratory well, namely, Raag-S-B has been drilled and another well Tukaram-C is currently under drilling.