

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5167  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013  
VESSELS USED BY ONGC  
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is not following international norms in case of age of its vessels chartered for offshore exploration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the ONGC is sub-hiring old vessels of smaller companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) There are as such no globally accepted age related norms which can be followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for its offshore operations. However, consequent to extensive interaction/feedback from the marine industry, communication with the Ministry of Shipping, age norms have recently been introduced viewing the overall availability of vessels, modernization of the shipping fleet, fair play to existing ship owners and safety considerations.

(c) & (d) ONGC does not "sub" hire vessels. All the vessels are hired through a transparent process of International Competitive Bidding (ICB).

However, in case of operational emergencies/non-availability of vessels, ONGC seeks support from other Exploration & Production (E&P) players. Similarly, at times of need, ONGC assists other E&P players in similar circumstances.