

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5273
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013
LEAKAGE OF GASES
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether leakage of gases like methane from drilling rigs being operated by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in the Bay of Bengal off the Andhra Coast is polluting the coastal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents and check pollution in the coastal areas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Madam.

(c) For the safety of offshore installations the 'Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008 are in force since June, 2008. These Rules have been notified by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and primarily pertains to safety aspects in offshore petroleum operations. Oil Industry Safety Directorate has been designated as the Competent Authority to oversee implementation of these Rules in offshore operations.

In addition, the following corrective measures are in place by ONGC to prevent such incidents:

All the rigs operate with mandatory class certification which is a primary requirement of safety of Rigs in offshore.

All rigs are certified under ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007.

The drill ships are following International Safety Management (ISM) Standards and also complied with ISPS (International Ship & port facility Security).

All operations are being carried out by having two safety barriers in place at all times to prevent any eventuality.

Compliance with regulatory requirement with regard to Environment clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies of the projects are carried out and Environment Management Plan (EMP) are prepared to address the environmental impacts.

Regular Audits and inspection are being carried out to identify gaps and for further improvement. Corrective measures are taken immediately to mitigate the findings, if any.