

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6104
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
OIL EXPLORATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has been involved in oil explorations in South China Sea; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) acquired two offshore Blocks 127 & 128, in Vietnam offshore offered in Vietnam Bid Round 2004. As there was no hydrocarbon presence, OVL surrendered the Block 127 to Petro Vietnam after fulfillment of Minimum Programme Commitment (MWC) as per PSC obligations in December 2010. In the other Block 128, OVL could not drill an exploratory well in 2009 to fulfill its MWC despite its persistent effort due to problems associated with rig anchoring in view of a unique sea bed condition, but it was finally field tested in November, 2011. OVL continues to hold the block 128 upto 15th June, 2014.