

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1811
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
OIL FIELDS IN IRAQ
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether Iraq has offered three oil fields to India on nomination basis; (
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Iraq has also offered to renegotiate the oil block that has been pending since 2000; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): In the 17th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held at Baghdad during 7th – 8th July, 2013, the Iraqi Government offered discovered – undeveloped oil fields namely Middle Furat Group of Fields (Kifil, West Kifil and Merjan). The Indian side requested for details to be shared for further due diligence.

(c) and (d): Iraq has offered to renegotiate exploration of Block-8, which is pending since 2000. Block - 8 extends over an area of 10.700 Sq.km and is located in the Western Desert of Iraq. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) signed the Exploration & Development Contract with Oil Exploration Company (OEC), Ministry of Oil, Iraq in November, 2000 and the Government of Iraq has ratified the contract. The block was under Force Majeure since 2003.

Government of Iraq has now decided that the Block - 8 Contract is required to be re-negotiated in line with the provisions of New Oil & Gas Law and Model contract for 4th Licensing Round of Iraq.

During the 17th JCM held at Baghdad on 7-8 July 2013, Ministry of Oil agreed to invite OVL for discussion. OVL has scheduled a meeting accordingly.