

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1542  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013  
DRILLING RIGS  
Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

- (a) whether the Government is having sufficient number of drilling rigs as per the technical requirement for drilling in Onshore and Offshore wells;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken for meeting the shortage of technically required drilling rigs?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Drilling rigs are owned and/or chartered hired by the Exploration & Production (E & P) Companies to carry out drilling of wells in onshore as well as offshore blocks/fields. Specific rig are selected based on the technical requirements of drilling of wells. The Companies operating under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime have not reported any shortage of drilling rigs. As far as Government oil companies are concerned, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) rig resources are deployed according to annual work program. The requirement of rigs is met by owned rigs and any additional requirement is met through charter hiring of rigs both in Onland and Offshore (shallow and deep water).

At present ONGC has deployed 107 nos. (75 owned rigs & 32 chartered hired rigs) of rigs. In addition, 11 nos. (6 owned rigs & 5 chartered hired rigs) of rigs are under mobilization.

So far as Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is concerned, OIL is at present operating 15 nos. drilling rigs (10 in-house & 5 chartered hired rigs) in its North-East Onshore Basin.

For number of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Blocks (Rajasthan, KG Basin, Mizoram, Karbi Anglong), OIL is initiating action for deployment of chartered rigs services. OIL has also initiated action for procurement of two drilling rigs as replacement of its old vintage retired rig and refurbished its old vintage drilling rigs for uninterrupted operation.

(c) Not applicable in view of answers at (a) & (b) above.