

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2692
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether a company has been awarded the contract for exploring natural oil and gas in Koshi and Gandhak basins in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said company has been engaged in drilling works for the last three to four years; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): So far, a total of three exploration blocks have been awarded in Bihar under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) of which two blocks are in Ganga Basin and one block is in Purnea Basin. Gandhak Basin falls within the Ganga Basin area and Koshi Basin falls partly in the western part of the Purnea Basin area.

ONGC was awarded block PA-ONN-2004/1 during NELP-VI bidding round which covers part of Koshi Basin and block GV-ONN-2005/3 during NELP-VII bidding round which covers part of Gandak Basin.

The Block PA-ONN-2004/1 had a work commitment of 1375 GLK/LK of 2D, 610 SKM of 3D seismic data acquisition and drilling of 2 exploratory wells. Against these targets, ONGC acquired 1407 GLK/LK OF 2D, 895 SKM of 3D seismic data and drilled two wells namely Rasulganj -1 & Bahadurganj-1. Both the wells were dry. The Block has been relinquished, during current year 2013-14, after completing the committed work programme.

The Block GV-ONN-2005/3 had a work commitment of 510 GLK/LK of 2D, 50 SKM of 3D seismic data acquisition. Against these targets, ONGC acquired 516 GLK/LK of 2D, 52 SKM of 3D seismic data. Integrated G&G studies with newly acquired data are in progress.

(c)& (d): The status of drilling of exploratory wells and outcome thereof in the blocks awarded in Bihar, is as under:

(i) ONGC has drilled 8 wells in the state of Bihar out of them 2 wells were drilled in last 4 years period and all the wells were dry. The two wells Rasulganj-1 & Bahadurganj-1 were drilled in Kishanganj District in the block PA-ONN-2004/1. This block has been relinquished during 2013-14.

(ii) At present, integrated interpretation of all G&G data including newly acquired seismic data is being carried in GV-ONN-2005/3 block to assess the prospectivity and to identify prospective locations for drilling.

(iii) One exploration block, GV-ONN-2002/1, operated by M/s Cairn Energy India Limited, has been relinquished after drilling the exploratory well Havidih # 1 in 2009 which was found to be devoid of hydrocarbons.