

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3366
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
BIFURCATING OF OIL BLOCK IN ASSAM
Toppo Shri Joseph

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently decided to bifurcate any oil block in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted with the State Government of Assam before taking up bifurcation work; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): The Oil Block in Assam has not been bifurcated. However, the exploration block AA-ON/7 in Assam-Arakan Basin comprising of an original area of 1934 sq km was spread partly in the state of Assam (1126 sq km) and partly in the state of Nagaland (808 sq km).

Assam Government awarded the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for Assam part of the Block on 27.03.2001. Nagaland Government awarded PEL for Nagaland portion of the Block on 09.08.2006.

The Contractor, comprising of Canoro Resources Limited and Assam Company Limited completed their work commitment (Minimum Work Programme as per Production Sharing Contract (PSC) stipulations) in Assam part on 26.03.2008 after completion of exploration. However, Contractor proposed to carry out additional work in Nagaland portion of the Block, as PEL was not available earlier.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved proposal of the Contractor to carry out additional work programme in Nagaland portion of the Block, by signing a separate ring fenced PSC for Nagaland portion of the Block.

(c.) & (d.): The Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for area falling in the state is granted by the State Government, as per the terms and conditions stipulated therein. PEL is granted for the exploration period in accordance with the (PSC) provisions.

For Assam portion of the Block, PEL was granted on 27.03.2001 and was applicable up to 26.03.2008.