

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4496
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009
DRILLING OF OIL WELLS BY ONGC
Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

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

- (a) the target depth of CPAA drilling site under ONGC, Cachar Forward Base during the year 2008;
- (b) the total area in which drilling was actually done;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred thereon including civil work;
- (d) whether the drilling was terminated before reaching the target depth and the work of the well was abandoned;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken to restart the drilling upto the target depth?

Answer

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

- (a) The target depth of CPAA drilling site was 4500 meters.
- (b) The location CPAA was identified to probe the hydrocarbon potential of lower Bhuban & Renji and shallower formations over a prospect area of 1.5 sq Km in the Hailakandi District PEL in Cachar.
- (c) Total Expenditure incurred in CPAA is as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Expenditure Depreciation Total

34.57 3.95 38.52

- (d) & (e) Yes, Madam. Drilling could not be carried out due to drilling complications in the well after depth of 3914 meters. After making several attempts to retrieve the fish and also sidetrack the well, drilling was terminated.

As per the prospectivity analysis, four zones were expected in the Upper Bhubhan and Bokabil formations. However, after drilling of well these zones were found to be having very high water saturation and considered as water bearing. Hence, the well CPAA was abandoned.

- (f) Since no lead or discovery could be established in the area, Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for sixth & seventh year extension has not been granted and PEL was surrendered on 12.05.2009.