

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4250

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015

EXPLORATION OF CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS IN THE RIVER BEDS

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

(a) whether the Government is exploring crude oil and natural gas under the river beds of various rivers including Ganga, Kosi and Gandak rivers in the country particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the status of availability of the crude oil and natural gas under the river bed and the time by which the extraction of crude oil and natural gas is likely to be started?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): The oil and gas exploration activities are planned in the sedimentary basins having suitable geological setup for generation, accumulation, migration and entrapment of oil and gas in geological structure.

Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, so far, 9 exploration blocks have been awarded in Ganga basin under various rounds of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Out of the 9 blocks, 8 blocks have been relinquished and 1 block is under operation at present.

In so far as Bihar State is concerned, under the PSC regime, 3 exploration blocks have been awarded under various rounds of bidding under NELP. 2423 Line Kilometre(LKM) of 2D & 947 Square Kilometre(SKM) of 3D seismic data have been acquired and 3 exploratory wells drilled in these blocks. However, no oil/gas discovery has been made. All these exploration blocks have been relinquished by operators.

ONGC has acquired 8490 LKM of 2D, 947 SKM of 3D seismic data and has drilled 8 exploratory wells in Ganga, Kosi and Gandak basins in the State of Bihar.