

Title: Need to reconsider the decision of Oil India Ltd. to close down exploration project in Mahanadi Basin, Orissa – laid.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR) : The Oil India Limited (OIL) has undertaken exploration project in the Mahanadi Basin of Orissa. Various seismic geo-chemical Survey and Basin Model Survey conducted during the recent years and geophysical and interpretation propose that Mahanadi Basin has a large potential of Oil and Natural Gas reserve.

As per OIL report (Exploration and Production strategy 1985-2005) prognosticated reserves of Mahanadi Basin are as below :-

Mahanadi on shore : 50 MMT

Mahanadi off shore : 100 MMT

NEC offshore : 1160 MMT

But without drilling sufficient number of wells to the required depth and as per the All India average, the OIL is deciding to close down the project on various pleas. When oil refinery project is coming up at Paradip, Orissa, the Oil India Limited is withdrawing itself from the exploration activities in the Mahanadi Basin which could be the nearest source of crude oil to feed the Paradip Refinery.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to prevail upon the OIL to reconsider their decision of closing down the exploration project in Mahanadi Basin.