

>

Title : Need to equip Bay Exploration Project in Orissa with more technically trained man power.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The Oil India Limited which is a leading public sector undertaking started its exploration activities in Orissa off-shore and on-shore since 1979 but has failed to achieve its objective due to its cynic and step-motherly attitude towards the State of Orissa even though Orissa is rich enough with hydro carbon reserves. But unfortunately, Oil India Ltd. in the past slowed down its work instead of accelerating their drilling activities. The Project Office set up in Orissa called as the Bay Exploration Project manned by good number of technical personnel and other supporting staff in the beginning was reduced to an office with skeleton staff now having no technical hand. Without any sound reason drilling was slowed down without reaching to the targeted depth and abandoned in the mid way. A situation was created to close the project in Orissa and permission was sought for closure in the year 1998. But due to strong opposition from the employees' union and the people of Orissa this could not be done. The then Chief Minister of Orissa, Lt. Shri Biju Patnaik also intervened to halt the closure procedure. The Oil India Limited having its project and infrastructure including drilling material at Paradeep and the Project Office at Bhubaneswar for last 27 years is required to re-dedicate itself in the exploration activities in the coast of Orissa for which the Central Government has to take upon its responsibility to allot new blocks to Oil India Limited.

For such premise, I would urge upon the Petroleum Ministry to impress upon Oil India Limited not to dismantle its existing infrastructure in Orissa, rather it should take immediate steps to equip the Bay Exploration Project with more trained technical personnel.