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Title : Need to restart drilling & oil exploration in the offshore of Cochin high.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd started oil exploration at Cochin offshore on 2.8.2009. Naturally the people of Kerala have a great expectation about the exploration that will not only boost the oil production of the country but at the same time give impetus to industrial and commercial activities in the entire state of Kerala. A news items appeared in the news papers that the drilling activity of ONGC is going to stop in the offshore of Cochin high. There are so many scientific studies conducted by ONGC and other governmental organizations about the oil deposit in the Cochin Offshore. Now the drilling has started around 70 nautical miles from the Cochin coast. The ONGC sources earlier said that the preliminary drilling is needed around 6.5 KMs deep in the sea and around Rs. 400 crores (approx.) would be required for it. The area to be covered is roughly 55 sq. km and it will take 6-7 years before it could be tapped, commercially. Every year the country is spending huge amount for the imports of oil. I would, therefore, like to request the Government and Petroleum Ministry to restart the drilling and exploration of oil in the Cochin high.