

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Environmental Clearance for Gas Exploratory Projects

*227. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:
SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has exempted onshore and offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling in the country including Cauvery delta zone in Tamil Nadu from the requirement of environmental clearance and Environment Impact Assessment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the rationale behind such exemption; and;
- (c) the total number of onshore and offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling projects permitted by the Government across the country during the last three years, project-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 227 due for reply on 06.03.2020 regarding 'Environmental Clearance for Gas Exploratory Projects' by SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI and SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA, Hon'ble Members of Parliament

(a) The Government has re-categorized the on-shore and off-shore oil and gas exploration projects or activities from Category 'A' to Category 'B2' vide notification number S.O. 236(E) dated the 16th January, 2020. Any Project Proponent will, in the present scheme of things, have to apply to State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), which is an organ of the State Government and SEIAA will take a final call in the matter. Therefore, the final decision as to whether to allow any particular project in any particular region would continue to vest with the State Government. Further, such projects are also required to obtain consent under Air and Water Acts from State Pollution Control Boards.

(b) The Government has re-categorized the on-shore and off-shore oil and gas exploration projects or activities from Category 'A' to Category 'B2' on the following grounds:-

- i. Exploratory drilling is a temporary activity and will be completed in three to four months without having any permanent establishment or setup at the exploratory site.
- ii. The exploratory wells are drilled only for appraisal without taking out any commercial production at this stage. It is in fact, a prospecting activity for ascertaining the presence of Hydrocarbons.
- iii. Exploratory drilling involves a small piece of land admeasuring 110X110 sq.m. which has limited scope of waste generation along with minimal environmental impacts for a short span.
- iv. There is no requirement of prior-environmental clearance even in case of exploration of coal and other major or minor minerals,.
- v. Consent to establish and operate shall still be required from the respective State Pollution Control Board or Union Territory Pollution control Committees, as the case may be, to ensure the environmental safeguards.

(c) Eighteen Prior Environmental Clearances were issued during the year 2015 to 2019. The details of projects issued Prior Environmental Clearance is given in the Annexure.

Annexure

For part (c) of statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 227 due for reply on 06.03.2020 regarding 'Environmental Clearance for Gas Exploratory Projects' by SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI and SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA, Hon'ble Members of Parliament

Details exploration of Hydrocarbons projects issued Prior Environmental Clearance during 2015 to 2019

Sl.	Name of the project	State	Date of issue of EC	Project type
1	Onshore Exploration and Development in 2PML Blocks in Districts Cachar and Hailakandi, Assam	Assam	07.08.2019	New
2	Development Drilling of 72 wells in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	20.10.2018	New
3	Expansion for development and production of Uber-2 well and Group Gathering Station, Jambusar, Gujarat	Gujarat	06.03.2019	Expansion
4	Proposed Exploratory Drilling of 2 wells in NELP Block AA-ONN-2001/2, Kolasib & Mamit District, Mizoram	Mizoram	28.03.2019	New
5	Exploration in Mumbai Offshore Block MB-OSN-2005/1(NELP-VII) in west coast of India	Maharashtra	30.04.2019	New
6	Exploration and Development of drilling wells in the existing PML area (PML12.7 sq.km) of Modhera Field at Village Matresan, Tehsil Becharaji, District Mehsana, Gujarat	Gujarat	27.12.2019	Expansion
7	Exploration and Development of drilling wells in the existing PML area (PML 4 sq.km) of Baola Field at Village Salajada, Tehsil Bavla, District Ahmedabad, Gujarat by M/s Sun Petrochemicals Pvt. Ltd	Gujarat	20.05.2019	Expansion
8	Development drilling of 200 wells in Sivasagar District, Assam	Assam	06.03.2019	New
9	Development Drilling of 4 wells in Borholla ML block, Jorhat District and development drilling of 8 wells in Nambar ML area, East Lakhbari ML area, Khoraghat ML and Khoraghat extension ML area in Gola	Assam	01.05.2019	New
10	Expansion of Onshore Oil and Gas Production from Existing 300,000 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) to 400,000 BOPD and 165 Million Standard Feet per Day (MMSCFD) to 750 MMSCFD from RJ-ON-90/1 Block, Barm	Gujarat	11.04.2019	Expansion
11	Workover of the temporarily abandoned 2 (sweet gas) wells & 5 nos of additional exploratory /development well in an area of 9.63 sq.km of Achanta filed in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	17.05.2019	New

Sl.	Name of the project	State	Date of issue of EC	Project type
12	Exploratory/Development Drilling & Production in Bhimanapalli Onshore Contract Area KG/ONDSF/BHIMANAPALLI/2016 at, Bhimanapalli, Nagavaram, Sanavalli of Uppalaguptam Mandal & Lakshmivada, Bantumilli,	Andhra Pradesh	17.06.2019	New
13	Onshore Oil & Gas Exploratory Drilling and Testing of hydrocarbons in NELP IX Block: AA-ONN-2010/3 in Sadiya Area of Tinsukia district in the state of Assam.	Assam	03.07.2019	New
14	Proposed Onshore Oil and Gas development and production activities in the Block CB-ONN-2010/8, Cambay, Gujarat by M/s Bharat PetroResources Ltd	Gujarat	30.07.2019	New
15	Exploration, Development and Production for Oil & Gas in 21 onshore PML blocks in Upper Assam North, A & AA Basin, Sivsagar district, Assam	Assam	19.12.2019	New
16	Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration in 12 ML Blocks of Western Onshore Basin, District Mehsana, Gujarat	Gujarat	06.12.2019	New
17	Drilling of 15 exploratory wells under non forest area in Nohta-Damoh-Jabera PML Block, Vindhyan Basin, Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	27.12.2019	New
18	Onshore Exploration of oil and gas from 134 wells in 32 ML blocks in Vadodara, Kheda, Anand, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, & Sabarkantha districts, Gujarat	Gujarat	27.12.2019	New