

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 401
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st August, 2025

Consultancy Contracts by ONGC

†*401. Shri Anand Bhaduria:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether any consultancy assignments in the North-Eastern Region have been awarded to M/S Beicip-Franlab by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on a nomination basis without following any tender process and if so, the details thereof including the value of assignments and nature of contracts for all the said projects;
- (b) the names of foreign companies which have not been considered for the said assignments including the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said contract conforms to the General Financial Rules (GFR) and CVC guidelines and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the persons responsible for the said lapse; and
- (e) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details of action taken thereon?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री
(श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *401 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025 REGARDING
“CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS BY ONGC” ASKED BY SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA**

(a) to (c): No. No consultancy assignment has been awarded to M/s Beicip-Franlab in the North Eastern Region by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC).

(d) to (e): Does not arise, in view of above

It is also emphasised that, ONGC is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and a major contributor to our economy. It engages with experienced specialized entities for complex technical studies such as modelling of permeable reservoirs, deep-water subsurface studies and interpretation of data for production enhancement. These studies require highly specialised domain knowledge, proprietary/patented software, advanced modelling techniques, research infrastructure and timely delivery capabilities.

Across the world, only a handful of entities provide these specialised services. One such entity, M/s Beicip-Franlab, operates under the control of IFPEN (*Institut Français du Pétrole* Energies Nouvelles), a state of the art and world renowned Research & Development (R&D) institute under the Ministry of Energy, Government of France. IFPEN has extensive global experience and recognition in these specialised areas especially in deep and ultra-deep water studies, patented proprietary software for reservoir modelling, which is technically complex. Also, ONGC has a running Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IFPEN (last renewed in 2023) for joint research and technical collaboration for exploration and development of hydrocarbon reserves and implementation of new technologies, including renewable energy.

ONGC undertakes large number of exploration and production projects across the country as per its Board approved guidelines which are in line with the principles laid out by the General Financial Rules (GFR) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It is reiterated in reference to **(a)** that no contract has been awarded to M/s Beicip-Franlab in the North Eastern Region ONGC. Even in other regions, it has been found that the total value of the assignments awarded to M/s Beicip-Franlab is less than Rs 6.5 crore in the last five years, which is a miniscule percentage for this Maharatna Company that has an average Profit After Tax (PAT) of more than Rs 33,000 crore per annum (in last five years).
