

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1498
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
DEPOSITS OF OIL AND GAS IN BIHAR
RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY

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

- (a): whether the Government are aware of the huge deposits of oil in Purnea basin and natural gas in Ganga basin in Bihar;
- (b): if so, whether despite of repeated requests by Bihar Government, the Geological Survey of India is not providing drilling machines for the exploration of oil and is prevaricating in providing the services of experts; and
- (c): if so, the details of steps being taken by the Union Government to explore oil and natural gas in the Purnea basin and in Ganga basins?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

- (a) No commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made in the State of Bihar, including Purnea basin and Ganga Valley basin, till date.
- (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.
- (c) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has acquired 1,150 Line Kilometer (LKM) of Two-dimensional (2-D) seismic data during 2002-03 in Ganga valley basin falling in the State of Bihar for new mapping and geological plays with a view to offer prospective areas under future rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1498 BY RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING DEPOSITS OF OIL AND GAS IN BIHAR

- (a): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) has initiated exploratory efforts in the State of Bihar in 1961 and till date has acquired 17,595 stations of Gravity-Magnetic data, 6,566 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of Two-dimensional (2-D) seismic data and drilled six exploratory wells in Ganga basin consisting of Gandak, Madhubani and Purnea sub-basins in the State.The sub-surface data gathered so far by ONGC has, however, not given any encouraging leads towards discovery of hydrocarbons.
- (b): The exploration of oil and gas is not carried out by the Geological Survey of India and thus they usually are not equipped with proper drilling machine for the purpose, but the same is carried out by National Oil Companies(NOCs) i.e. ONGC and Oil India Ltd.(OIL).Work for opening of new areas for future exploration is done by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons(DGH) and if an exploration block is awarded to a private/joint venture company, the exploration of oil and gas is carried out by it.
- (c): DGH has acquired 1,150 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2-D seismic data during 2002-03 in two Ganga valley blocks, GV-ON-90/7 and GV-ON-90/6, falling in the State of Bihar for new mapping and geological plays.The work in one of the blocks has been completed for offer under the future rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP).

To expedite the exploration for hydrocarbons in the State and to supplement the efforts of NOCs, two exploration blocks, GV-ON-90/6 and GV-ON-90/7, falling mainly in the State of Bihar and two blocks, GV-ON-90/5 and VN-ON-90/5, falling partly in the State were offered to private companies in IVth round of exploratory bidding in 1991. Two blocks GV-ONJ-94-2 and GN-ONJ-2, partly falling in the State of Bihar were offered in Joint Venture Exploration Programme in 1995.One exploration block, PA-ON-1 in Purnea basin partly falling in the State of Bihar, was offered in VIth, VIIth and VIIIth rounds of bidding.Government offered one exploration block in Bihar, PA-ONN-2000/1, under third round of NELP. However, no bid was received under any of the above offers.

DGH under joint venture speculative survey programme, carried out 2D seismic survey in two blocks, GV-ON-90/5 and VN-ON-90/5, partly falling in the State of Bihar, in 1996-97.