

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN ASSAM
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

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

- (a) whether the public representatives from North-East have urged the Government to impress upon the need for increase in oil gas production in Assam and to meet shortfall in crude output owing to which the refineries in Assam had been operating below capacity;
- (b) if so, the details of demands made by them; and
- (c) the Government's response thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c) : On 28.11.2002, in a meeting with Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas the Members of Parliament from North-East had, inter alia, urged the Government to impress upon Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to take up more exploration activities so that new fields could come and crude oil production could be improved in the North-East region, especially in Nagaland and Assam.

Apart from efforts of ONGC and OIL, Government of India has invited private participation for exploration and production in the North-East Region. Exploration activities in terms of physical inputs are increasing in the North-East region over the years and higher targets have been planned for exploration inputs in the X Five Year Plan by ONGC and OIL. Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Exploration blocks, including blocks in the North-East region are carved out on regular basis and offered on global bidding system.

While concerted efforts are being made to augment E&P activities, at the same time a decision has been taken to provide Rawra crude oil to the tune of 1.5 million tonne (MMT)/year with effect from May 2003 to Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL).