

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:430  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003  
BIDS FOR DEEP WATER DRILLING  
M. JAGANNATH

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

- (a) whether the Government have floated global tenders inviting bids for deep water drilling programme 'sagar samridhi';
- (b) if so, the response of the global companies in this regard;
- (c) the quantum of gas/oil expected to be found out;
- (d) whether this would fulfil the needs of the future burgeoning demand of petroleum in the country; and
- (e) if so, the investment likely to be pumped into this venture?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) floated a global tender in December, 2002 inviting bids for hiring deep water rigs. In response to this, 29 companies purchased tender documents, of which 25 were foreign companies and 4 were Indian companies.

(c) & (d): Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of the entire deep water areas of East and West Coast offshore have been estimated to be about 7 Billion Tonnes oil equivalent (BTOE). The 'Sagar Samirdhi' of ONGC is a step towards realizing the hydrocarbon potential in the deepwater blocks awarded to ONGC on nomination basis as also under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). As exploration and its results are probabilistic in nature, quantum of oil and gas which may be accreted cannot be specified.

(e): The estimated expenditure for the contracts awarded on basis of the global tender floated in December, 2002 is about Rs. 3,550 crores.