

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6147  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005  
EXPLORATORY WELLS IN MAHANADI  
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has awarded on shore and offshore exploratory wells in Mahanadi plateau to various public and private sector oil companies;
- (b) if so, the details in the regard;
- (c) the number of exploratory wells so far drilled in the off shore and on shore blocks;
- (d) whether in view of geological considerations for all the areas of Orissa, any exploratory efforts has been made;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the achievements made in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (f): In the Mahanadi basin, Government of India have signed Production Sharing Contracts(PSCs) under 4 Rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy for one onland block, namely, MN-ONN-2000/1 operated by Oil India Ltd. consortium and seven offshore blocks, namely, MN-OSN-97/3, MN-DWN-98/3, MN-OSN-2000/1, MN-OSN-2000/2, MN-DWN-2002/1, MN-DWN-2002/2 and NEC-DWN-2002/2 operated by an ONGC consortium. In addition, 3 exploration blocks, namely, MN-DWN-98/2, NEC-OSN/92/2 and NEC-DWN-2002/1, have been awarded to the Reliance Industries Ltd. consortium and one exploration block, NEC-OSN-92/1 to the OAO GAZPROM consortium. In the fifth round of NELP, one deep water block, MN-DWN-2003/1, has been offered for competitive international bidding. The bid closing date is 31 May 2005.

OIL had drilled 11 exploratory wells in Mahanadi offshore and 4 23lls in onland areas with no significant hydrocarbon finds. Under NELP, 18,877 Line Kilometers(LKM) of 2D seismic and 7242 Sq. kilometer of 3D seismic data have been acquired. In block, NEC-OSN-97/2, six exploratory wells have been drilled by RIL, and have resulted in six gas discoveries.