

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005

AGREEMENT BETWEEN OIL INDIA LIMITED AND VENEZUELAN COMPANY

Maharia Shri Subhash

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

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. and a Venezuelan Company propose to start a pilot project on heavy oil exploration in the Jaisalmer-Bikaner Basin and to prepare blocks for crude oil exploitation in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any talks have been held between representatives of these companies;

(c) if so, details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the works on these projects are likely to be started?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 425 BY SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN OIL INDIA LIMITED AND VENEZUELAN COMPANY

(a) to (c) : On 29.11.2002, Oil India Limited (OIL) entered into a contract with M/s. PDVSA-INTEVEP, the National Oil Company of Venezuela, to implement a pilot project on heavy oil exploration in the Baghewala field of the Bikaner-Nagaur Basin in Rajasthan. The Venezuelan Company is not associated with OIL in the exploration for oil and gas in any other block in Rajasthan.

The contract provides for consultancy services and technical collaboration, including supervision for detailed engineering studies of the Baghewala block, leading to pilot plant experiment, design and the preparation of a development plan for heavy oil exploration in two phases.

PDVSA-INTEVEP have completed Phase-I of the pilot study and have submitted their final report covering integrated reservoir studies. Based on this report, OIL have initiated action to drill one pilot well in Phase-II and undertake further studies.

(d) : The drilling of the pilot well is expected to commence by October 2005.