

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1458
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
NEW DISCOVERIES IN BAY OF BENGAL
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

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

- (a) whether new natural gas deposit areas were found in Bay of Bengal Basin ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the commercial viability of the deposit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the proposal for exploration of oil and gas in West Bengal?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) Yes Sir, M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. the operator of block NEC-OSN-97/2 has made 6 gas discoveries in the Bay of Bengal.
- (c)&(d) The operator's assessment of the commerciality of these gas discoveries has been submitted to Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) for review in terms of the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract.
- (e) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. holds one acreage in the state of West Bengal. The Contai area was awarded to ONGC on a nomination basis. 3D seismic data acquired in the block is under interpretation.