

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3354  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005  
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION DATA  
Nikhil Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has been empowered to keep all exploration and production data held by exploration licensees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has also been given powers to check overseas exploration and production strategies of the State run oil companies;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the exploration companies are maintaining the exploration data etc.; and
- (f) if not, how Directorate General of Hydrocarbons would be able to keep a check on the functioning of exploration companies?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, all data/ information acquired by the contractors belongs to the Government of India and contractors are required to give copies of all such data/information to DGH. With respect to exploration areas held by National Oil Companies (NOCs) namely ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL), the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 (P&NGR) stipulate that they would provide all data on relinquishment of an area. Government have designated DGH to receive and maintain all such data.
- (c)& (d) : As per the Gazette Resolution dated 8th April, 1993, on functions and responsibilities of the DGH, DGH can advise the Government on the strategy to acquire equity oil and gas from abroad. As such, DGH is invited to participate in meetings of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries when proposals requiring such inputs are discussed.
- (e) All companies under the PSC regime maintain all data at their offices in India and deliver copies of the same to DGH. With respect to nomination blocks held by NOCs, the data is maintained by them and copies given to DGH on relinquishment of an area under the PNG rules.
- (f) In view of (e), issue does not arise.