

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4447
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL FROM SICK WELLS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether The Energy Research Institute (TERI) has developed a microbiological technique to enhance the production of crude oil from sick oil wells upto three times;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce this technique in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has developed a microbial technique to enhance production of crude oil from oil wells up to three times. TERI's extensive research work in this regard was initially (1992-1995) funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Later on TERI signed an agreement with the Institute of Reservoir Studies (IRS) of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in 1999 for the development of the Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) technique to enhance production of oil from stripper oil wells upto reservoir temperatures of 90 C. This technique which is more applicable for wells with low production than for sick wells is found to contribute a two-to-three fold production gain.

(c) & (d): The MEOR technique has been implemented in 26 wells of the Ahmedabad and Mehsana assets of ONGC and in 3 wells of Oil India Limited in Assam. ONGC have initiated steps to implement this technique in their Assam asset also. Further, ONGC plan to implement MEOR on a large scale in the fields of Ahmedabad and Mehsana assets, some 60 wells/year from 2006-07..