

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3166  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004  
PILFERAGE OF CRUDE OIL IN ASSAM  
Gohain Shri Rajen

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

- (a) whether cases of pilferage of crude oil in Assam have come to the notice of Government during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken in each case;
- (c) whether such a case of theft of crude oil in Assam is under investigation of CBI; and
- (d) if so, the preliminary findings thereof and the date by which the final report of CBI is likely to be received by the Government?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Both OIL and ONGC have informed that there have been some incidents of theft/pilferage of crude oil from their pipeline networks. During the last three years, i.e., from April 2001 to March 2004, Oil India Limited has reported 30 cases of theft/pilferage of crude oil from pipelines. ONGC has reported 16 such cases during the same period.

A number of measures have been taken to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate such theft/pilferage. These measures, inter-alia, include close coordination between the oil companies, the Central and State Governments and the law enforcement agencies, and also involve deployment of Village Defence Parties, periodical surveillance by helicopters, joint patrolling exercises, deployment of dog squads, mobilization of public support, etc. The Government have also put in place an institutional mechanism by way of the Onshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) for the State of Assam to monitor the position periodically. OIL and ONGC have reported that 77 arrests were made in this connection during the last three years.

(c) & (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.