

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2043
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2006
EXTORTION NOTICE TO ONGC
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) Whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has received an extortion demand from outlawed separatist guerrillas National Socialist Council of Nagaland;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the extortion demand of NSCN have been met by ONGC;
- (d) If so, whether NSCN have threatened ONGC to face the consequences;
- (e) If so, the details of, new safety aspects ONGC have taken in view of threats posed by NSCN?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) Extortion notices dated 17.03.06 were received in office of Asset manager, GGM (Drilling) and GM (Prodn.) of Assam Asset, Nazira on 08.05.2006 and 09.05.2006, respectively. The NSCN through these letters, had demanded Rs.3.00 crores from each officer.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No threat was indicated in the letter.

However, they have indicated that ONGC can carry out work around Changpang area (Assam-Nagaland Border) under 'Mon' District only after fulfillment of their demands by 5th April 2006.

(e) 1. The issue of increasing threats by militants has been taken up with the MHA and Govt. of Assam by MOP&NG.

2. Periodical review with State Authorities (Govt. of Assam) and liaison with local police authorities is being conducted.

3. The issues of militant threats and extortions have been deliberated periodically in the Onshore Security Coordination Committee meetings.

4. Security personnel (deployed in Assam) have been sensitized to take preventive measures in view of the increasing threats by militants.

5. Patrolling and Checking in vulnerable areas have been intensified. Also areas/ roads have been identified for conducting mobile-checks to combat militant activities with the help of local Police.

6. PSOs have been deployed from Assam police to accompany senior officers on field duties. Shift Buses are escorted by CRPF.

7. An officer of the rank of SSP has been inducted from Assam Police as Chief Manager (Security) for effective liaison with the local police.