

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097

ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006

EXTORTION NOTICE FROM ULFA

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Jha Shri Raghunath;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has received an extortion notice from ULFA militant outfits;

(a) If so, the facts and details thereof;

(b) whether the lives of personnel and property of ONGC in Assam is completely unsafe and ULFA militants are threatening to face consequences; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by ONGC in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) A letter dated 01.01.2006 addressed to the Asset Manager, Assam Asset purportedly written by ULFA demanding Rs.500 Crores was received by ONGC.

(c) The lives of the personnel and the property of ONGC in Assam do not appear to be in danger. However, there have been 4 disruptive incidents by militants resulting in minor damage to the property of ONGC in the recent past.

(d) ONGC has taken the following steps:

(i) Patrolling and checking of security in vulnerable areas has been intensified.

(ii) Apart from sensitizing the security personnel deployed in ONGC installations in Assam in view of the increasing threat by militants, Security concerns have also been taken up in the Onshore Security Coordination Committee meetings being held from time to time by the oil companies including ONGC.

(iii) ED (Security) personally visited Assam Asset on January 10, and after reviewing the security arrangements, issued several instructions for strengthening the same.

(iv) In view of the increasing threats to ONGC assets C & MD along with DG-CISF, Director (HR) and ED (Security), ONGC have reviewed the security arrangements in consultation with the CISF, CRPF and District authorities.