

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:325  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004  
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION  
Majhi Shri Parsuram

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

- (a) whether the Oil India Limited has started exploration of oil and natural Gas In the Mahanadi Basin in 1979;
- (b) whether the above Public sector Oil company has not been able to discover any oil or gas resource in that river basin;
- (c) whether the private oil company Reliance has recently discovered a huge gas reserved area in the same river basin;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;and
- (e) the reasons of the fallure of Oil India Company in gas or oil recovery in the river basin?

**Answer**

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj (Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar)

(a) & (b): Oil India Ltd.(OIL) had started exploration activities in the Mahanadi Basin in 1978. OIL have carried out 14,248 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2D seismic survey and 3393 Sqare Kilometer of 3D seismic survey and drilled 15 exploratory wells in Mahanadi basin. No commercial discovery was made by OIL in the drilled wells.

Yes Sir, in the Mahanadi North East Coast area M/s Reliance India Ltd. have recently made four gas discoveries in block NEC-OSN-97/2. The reserves of these discoveries are under appraisal.

(d) & (e): Oil and gas exploration is an activity beset with many imponderables and uncertainties. OIL did not encounter any commercial hydrocarbon prospects in all the 15 wells drilled in Mahanadi onshore (4), Mahanadi offshore (7) and in North-East Coast (4) prior to relinquishing its Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) areas.