

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2757  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009  
OIL EXPLORATION AT COCHIN HIGH  
Antony Shri Anto

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

:

- (a) whether any drilling /exploration operations are taking place in Cochin High; and
- (b) if so, the status of such drilling /exploration projects?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Yes, madam.

(b) Government of India has awarded 19 exploration blocks in Kerala- Konkan basin including Cochin High. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have acquired 41,282 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2D seismic and 9920 square kilometer of 3D seismic data. On the basis of seismic survey results, six exploratory wells were drilled and proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons. In addition, ONGC had also drilled 3 wells prior to award of these 19 blocks, which proved to be dry.