

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3676

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Gas Leakage in Offshore/Onshore Oil Fields

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

- (a) the number of accidents took place in onshore/offshore oil establishment in the country including gas leakage in Mumbai high recently and if so, the details thereof along with loss of life and property due to said leakage and steps taken by the Government to find out the causes of leakage or conducted any enquiry in this regard, company/oil and gas field-wise;
- (b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such major incidents of gas leakages in future, company/oil and gas field-wise;
- (c) whether there is any delay for approval of reinvestment plans as compared to previous years and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken for faster approval to boost the exploration and production activity in the country;
- (d) whether a number of oil wells operated by various public sector oil companies have aged and are producing oil and gas below their capacity and if so, the details thereof, oil field/State/UT-wise;
- (e) the various initiatives/steps including adoption of latest technology being taken by the Government to increase oil production from the aged/closed oil wells, oil field/State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the details of expenditure incurred on exploration by ONGC during the last three years and the current year and the quantum of funds written wasted under the bad debts, oil field-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARAMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b). In the E&P (Offshore/Onshore) oil establishments, total 44 numbers of accidents/incidents have been reported by Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) since the year 2014 including Gas leakage in Mumbai high. The details of accidents including gas leak which took place in onshore/offshore installations along with their root cause are furnished in Annexure-I. There were total 15 fatalities in all these 44 incidents/accidents.

As regards the steps taken by the government to find out the cause of leakage, it may be mentioned that investigation of any incident is undertaken by the concerned Operator. Over & above, major incidents are also investigated by OISD / committee set-up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) for the purpose. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and lessons learnt from these investigation reports are shared with the oil companies for prevention of similar such incidents. ATR of the major process safety failures are monitored.

Based on major incident investigation, lapses, if any, the accountability are dealt by the Operators as per the provisions of CDA rules. Over & above, MoP&NG also regularly monitors the incidents across the Industry and takes suitable actions to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

(c). Approval of reinvestment plans is an ongoing process and decision to approve each reinvestment plan is taken depending upon its merit.

(d) & (e). Most of the fields of ONGC/OIL are old and matured, have crossed their plateau period of production and entered the natural decline phase (a natural process in the production life of oil fields). To maintain / augment production from such fields is very challenging and requires additional development, use of new technologies and healthy reservoir practices. In mature fields, flowing wells becoming non-flowing and revival of these non-flowing wells is a continuous and dynamic process which is an intrinsic characteristic of any oil/gas fields. ONGC/OIL over the years has developed in-house expertise to revive idle / closed wells. Wherever possible, efforts are made to revive the wells by using rig less techniques such as scrapping, hot oil circulation, nitrogen jobs, compressor application & other stimulation techniques like acid job, fracturing etc. However, where ever needed rig is deployed to service/revival of wells. ONGC/OIL is redeveloping its matured fields through various IOR / EOR / Re-development schemes and application of appropriate technologies.

Companies also take the assistance of international consultants for taking up complicated repair/trouble shooting jobs by applying the latest technology to revive idle / closed wells.

(f). Details of State-wise Exploration Expenditure of ONGC for the last three year and amount charged as bad debts during the corresponding period is given at Annexure-II & III respectively
