

in the Metros of Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai LPG connections are being released in NCT Delhi on demand.

(c) Around 11 lakh new LPG connections are likely to be released during the year 1999-2000 in the Metro cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai by PSU Oil Companies.

New Oil Wells Discovered in the Country

1656. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new oil wells have been discovered by the Public Sector Oil Exploration Companies till date during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of wells so far discovered, company-wise, location-wise particularly in Rajasthan State;

(c) what is the quantity of oil explored and still left in each of these wells till date; and

(d) whether Government have entrusted oil exploration work to private sector companies also, if so, with what results as compared to PSU companies during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) During the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 1-10-1999), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made following hydrocarbon finds:—

Onshore

S. No.	Field	State
1996-97		
1	Mekrang	Assam
2	Wadasma	Gujarat
3	Kherwa	Gujarat
4	Asmali	Gujarat
5	Hirapur	Gujarat

S. No.	Field	State
1996-97		
6	Kuthalam	Tamil Nadu
7	Tulsapatnam	Tamil Nadu
8	Enugupalli	Andhra Pradesh
9	Kesanapalli-west	Andhra Pradesh
10	Rangapuram	Andhra Pradesh
11	Sadewala	Rajasthan
1997-98		
12	Vatrak	Gujarat
13	Periyapattinam	Tamil Nadu
14	Neyveli	Tamil Nadu
15	Ramanavalsai	Tamil Nadu
16	Magatapalli	Andhra Pradesh
1998-99		
17	Kali	Tamil Nadu
18	Kesavadasapalem	Andhra Pradesh
19	Gokarnapuram	Andhra Pradesh
20	Anklav	Gujarat
21	North Sarbhan	Gujarat
22	Nambar	Assam
1999-2000 (upto 1.10.99)		
23	Akholjuni	Gujarat
Offshore		
1996-1997		
24	B-28	Mumbai
1997-98		

25	B-23A	Mumbai
1998-1999		
26	B-105	Mumbai

A total of 0.52 MMT of ultimate reserves of oil has been estimated as on 1.4.99 by ONGC from its 25 finds during 1996—99. A total of 0.45 MMT of oil is left after production.

2. The additional discoveries made by Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in its oil fields in Assam are as under:—

1996-97

1. Madarkhat,
2. Jutlibari,
3. Bachmatia,
4. Chabua and
5. Sealkati structures.

1997-98

1. Deohal,
2. Bhogpara,
3. Sapekhati and
4. Jeraipathar structures.

1998-99

1. Kamkhat
2. Khagarijan
3. South Kathaloni
4. North Balijan
5. Mohanbari
6. Moran South (Deeper Prospects)

1999-2000

South Tamulikhat

The ultimate reserves of oil as on 1.4.99 estimated by OIL, in respect of above finds, is 5.82 MMT. The balance oil left after production is 5.42 MMT.

(d) Government have so far contracted 23 exploration blocks to private/joint venture companies of which 19 exploration blocks have been contracted during last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99). Oil discovery has so far been made in one exploration block during August, 1999, in Barmer district of Rajasthan. Exploration success is area specific and depends upon several geological factors. Company wise comparison is not apt because different areas are held by various companies/PSUs with different geological characteristics.

Fall in Crude Oil Production

1657. **SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:**

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in crude oil production since 1998-99;

(b) if so, what are the details of the crude production for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, so far;

(c) the reason for the fall in production; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PON-NUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The production of crude oil during April to October, 1999 was higher at 19.08 million metric tonne (MMT) as compared to the level of production of 18.92 MMT achieved in the corresponding period during the year 1998-99. The level of production during 1997-98 and 1998-99 was as under—

Year	Production of Crude Oil (MMT)
1997-98	33.85
1998-99	32.72