

Exploration of new oil reserves

†147. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission are planning to extract more oil from oil blocks;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact despite untiring efforts of the company, no major oil reserve could be explored; and

(d) whether the company would also focus its attention for exploration of oil in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) During the first four years of the X plan period (2002-06), ONGC has accreted 507.24 MMT of oil and oil equivalent gas (O+OEG) in place hydrocarbons as against the corresponding target of 431.92 MMT from its acreages.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been carrying out exploration for hydrocarbons as per the X Plan (2002-07) exploration programme, which envisages acquisition of 35286 GLK/LKof 2D and 34834 sq. km. of 3D seismic data besides drilling of 561 exploratory wells. As of 1.4.2006, during X Plan period, ONGC has acquired 49932 GLK/LKof 2D and 68816 sq. Km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 489 exploratory wells.

During the same period, as on 1.4.2006, ONGC's exploratory efforts has resulted in 26 hydrocarbon strikes, i.e. five in Assam, one in Tripura, two in Gujarat, one in Rajasthan, two in Andhra Pradesh, ten in KG offshore and five in Mumbai offshore.

(d) ONGC has been carrying out exploration activities in its acreages in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Himachal Pradesh also. However, in the exploratory location released as a result of the exploratory survey undertaken in the Najot-Ramnagar area of Udhampur Distt. in J&K, planned drilling inputs could not be initiated due to security reasons as the operational area lies close to LOC. Subsequently, the PEL was surrendered by ONGC in February 2006. Since then ONGC does not have any exploratory acreages in J&K.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.