

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when exploration is expected to begin?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made one new oil find at East Lakhibari in the State of Assam during 2003-04.

Other exploratory leads obtained in the State during 2004-05 are under assessment.

(c) The East Lakhibari area has already been covered by 3D seismic data, based on the interpretation of which inputs for delineation have been identified. One well, East Lakhibari-1, has been put on trial production.

Revival of Bhatinda Oil Refinery

111. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has decided to revive the Bhatinda Oil Refinery Project, the work on which was suspended in 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the revised project, and the steps taken/being taken in that direction; and

(c) under what circumstances the work on the project was suspended earlier?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The refinery project at Batinda (Punjab) was to be set up by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) keeping in view the incentives granted by Government of Punjab (GOP) to the project. In respect of these incentives, HPCL had sought a Deed of Assurance (DOA) from the State Government. The work on the project was kept on hold as the conclusion of DOA was awaited. GOP have now agreed to grant the incentives in a modified form. Accordingly, HPCL intend to take up the refinery project after concluding the DOA with GOP.