

In addition to the basic pay, employees are entitled for DA, HRA, Medical benefit, PF, Bonus etc. as per company rule.

(d) The wages paid to contractual workers employed by contractors who have been awarded job contracts by ONGC varies as per classification of cities and minimum wages defined for different skills and different scheduled employments. The details of prevailing wages per day in scheduled employment in 'construction or maintenance of road or building operations' in Gujarat for different class of cities and different skills are given below:

Skill/Cities	'A' Class	'B' Class	'C' Class
Unskilled	Rs.224.0	Rs.186.0	Rs.157.3+
	+Rs.50.0	+Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0
Semi Skilled	Rs.248.0+	Rs.211.0+	Rs.174.0+
	Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0
Skilled	Rs.273.0	Rs.248.0+	Rs.211.0+
	+Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0
Highly Skilled	Rs.297.0+	Rs.273.0+	Rs.248.0+
	Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0	Rs.50.0

ONGC, being Principal Employer as per provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, ensures payment of atleast above wages for the contractual workers employed by contractors who have been awarded contracts by ONGC. In addition to the above wages, the contractual employees are getting benefits such as 'Kits & Liveries' if applicable, Provident Fund, Bonus, Salary in lieu of leave and group insurance/ESI (where applicable).

#### ONGC-VLs investment in Nigeria

1765. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC-Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) a joint venture of ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (ONGC-VL) and Mittal Investment Sarl, have entered into a production sharing contract for oil in Nigeria;

- (b) if so, the current status of exploration and the estimated date by which oil production is likely to commence in each of the blocks awarded to OMEL;
- (c) the details of infrastructure projects OMEL has undertaken to develop in Nigeria;
- (d) the reasons for delay in completion of these projects, if any; and
- (e) the details of ONGC-VL's liability towards the infrastructure projects, if Mittal Investment Sarl withdraws from its commitment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) ONGC-Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL), a joint venture of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Mittal Investment Sarl. (MIS) entered into two Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for exploration in two deepwater offshore Blocks OPL-279 and OPL-285 on 23rd February 2007.

(b) Presently, both the blocks are in the first exploration phase of 5 years effective from 23rd February 2007. OMEL drilled the commitment well Kuyere-1 in block OPL-279 during January-February 2010 and discovered hydrocarbons. As commerciality of the present discovery on stand-alone basis may be challenging, OMEL is studying the potential of further prospects in the block. OMEL also plans to drill the commitment well in the other Block OPL-285.

Production of oil is subject to establishing a commercial oil discovery and further detailed exploration and appraisal work.

(c) OMEL has to develop one of the strategic downstream projects as indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) viz. 180,000 barrels (bbl) per day capacity refinery or 2000 Mega Watt (MW) independent power project or an East-West Railway line or any other downstream project as may be determined by the Steering Committee subject to economic viability and technical feasibility of the project. The Steering Committee for downstream projects in its meeting held on 28th January 2010 had approved setting up of a refinery of 180,000 bbl/day capacity for export of petroleum products using Nigerian Crude as feed stock.

(d) Steering Committee for downstream projects has approved on 22nd July, 2010 to carry out detailed feasibility study for setting up a 180,000 barrels per day refinery project, for which action is in progress.

(e) OVL's liability towards the project will be restricted to its contribution as one of the promoter share holder of OMEL.

**Supply of natural gas to urea manufacturing plants**

1766. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give natural gas to new urea manufacturing plants in a bid to attract investments into the urea sector at a discounted price for a limited period;

(b) whether Government has also asked the State owned gas distributor, the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to guarantee long term availability of the feed stock to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies**

1767. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of petrol pumps and LPG agencies which were allotted during the Financial Years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of allottees belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories from the above allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The total number of retail outlets of petrol pumps and LPG agencies allotted by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited