

- (iii) marketing and distribution of petrochemical products;
  - (iv) construction and operation of oil and gas pipelines; and
  - (v) other midstream or downstream projects the parties are interested in.
- (c) OGNC Videsh Limited(OVL), 100% arm of ONGC is intended to have benefits out of such co-operation.

**Investment by ONGC on exploratory blocks**

1814. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is spending crores of rupees on seismic survey of 19,000 km of exploratory blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated value of the survey and companies short-listed by ONGC;
- (d) whether it is a fact that ONGC has increased the investment from Rs. 22,700 crore to Rs. 2.65 trillion;
- (e) if so, the reasons for spending such a large amount of money without proper scrutiny by the CAG;
- (f) whether Government would enquire into the spending of such a huge amount despite no major recovery of oil in domestic fields; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Sir, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is actively engaged in hydrocarbon exploration work in all its operating acreages. Seismic surveys being a part of exploration process, ONGC has been embarking on such surveys depending on the technical requirement.

Accordingly, about 16260 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic surveys with an estimated expenditure of US \$ 155.9 million (Rs. 857.4 crore @ Rs. 55 per USD) is likely to be taken up in the offshore exploratory blocks during the field season 2012-13. ONGC had short listed 10 companies for the above tenders. Details are at Annexure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

**Companies Short-listed:**

1. M/s. PGS Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.
2. M/s. CGG Veritas Services SA
3. M/s. WesternGeco International Ltd.
4. M/s. Fugro Geoteam AS
5. M/s. Seabird Exploration FZ LLC
6. M/s. SMNG (Sermoneftegeofizika)
7. M/s. Hind Offshore Pvt. Ltd.
8. M/s. Dolphin Geophysical AS
9. M/s. Polarcus DMCC
10. M/s. Reflect Geophysical Pte. Ltd.

**Delay in clearance for oil blocks under NELP**

1815. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is delay in clearance of oil and gas blocks put up for exploration under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) how much more time it would take to clear the pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Presently, 52 blocks awarded under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding are pending for clearance by different organizations such as Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), International Boundary Disputes and State Governments.

**Operator-wise breakup of the 52 blocks is as under:**

Sl.No.	Operator	No. of NELP Blocks Awaiting Clearances
1	2	3
1.	Oil and Natural gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)	22
2.	Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)	15