

Exploration wells drilled by ONGC and OIL in mining lease areas

2793. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

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

(a) the details of exploration wells drilled by ONGC, OIL and private companies in mining lease areas and oil and gas discoveries made by them;

(b) whether private companies have conducted exploration in mining lease areas under NELP and pre-NELP Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Oilfields (Regulation and Development), Act, 1948 (ORDA) or PSCs have been debarred in exploration and mining lease areas, if so, how have ONGC, OIL and private companies been allowed to violate the ORDA and PSC; and

(d) the reasons to make a special dispensation to allow exploration in mining lease areas to some select companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRAPRADHAN): (a) and (b) Details of exploration wells drilled by ONGC and OIL in mining lease areas and oil and gas discoveries made by them are as under:

National Oil Companies (NOCs)	No. of Wells drilled	Nos. of Discoveries
ONGC	1970	90
OIL	298	76

Details of exploratory activities in the Mining Lease areas under PSC regime by private / Joint Venture (JV) companies are as under:

Block Name	Operator	Nos. of Exploratory Wells drilled in ML area	Nos. of Discoveries Made
RJ-ON-90/1	Cairns India Ltd.	28	13
KG-DWN-98/3	RIL	3+1*	1

* Under Drilling at present.

(c) and (d) The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 does not specifically debar hydrocarbon exploration in the Mining Lease (ML) areas. Thus, National Oil Companies (NOC) have been doing exploration in Mining Lease areas of the nomination blocks, held by them in on-land and offshore areas.

The Private / JV companies have undertaken hydrocarbon exploration in the country based on Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) signed by them with the Government. These PSCs signed under Pre-NELP and NELP regime provide for a specific exploration period, as stipulated under articles of the respective PSCs.

The Government announced a policy dated 1st February, 2013 for 'Exploration in Mining Lease areas after expiry of Exploration period'. Subsequent to issuance of this policy, all the companies in the PSC regime have been allowed to undertake further exploration in the ML areas. Thus, hydrocarbon exploration in the ML areas is, presently, allowed for all the companies operating under the PSC regime, subject to the provisions of the extant policy in this regard.

News Steel Policy

2794. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning for a new Steel Policy;
- (b) how the proposed policy is different from the existing one;
- (c) how the new policy protect the domestic steel makers;
- (d) the production of steel and the domestic demand thereof;
- (e) what are the reasons that there is a demand-supply gap and Ministry is importing steel to meet the same; and
- (f) to what extent Hudhud Super Cyclone impacted steel production at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited at Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The new National Steel Policy is still in draft stage and has not been finalized so far. Therefore, no details can be given at this stage.

(d) The details relating production and the domestic demand of steel, for the last five years, are as under: