

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-933
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2023

OIL PROSPECTS AT ASHOK NAGAR IN WEST BENGAL

933. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the current progress of drilling and exploitation of oil discovered near Ashok Nagar in West Bengal;
- (b) the time it will take to reach a mature stage for economic exploitation;
- (c) whether its quality is better than Bombay High and superior to the Brent Crude benchmark of crude in the world; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that Ashok Nagar's crude has a gravity of 40-41, a light variety which is in international demand?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) & (b) The oil discovery near Ashoknagar in West Bengal was made in Block WB-ONN-2005/4 under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), operated by ONGC. As part of the appraisal activity, the operator has drilled two wells near Ashoknagar discovery. The first well has been abandoned and the second well is under exploration and appraisal phase. For further appraisal, two more wells were drilled and the production testing in these two wells (Ashoknagar-2 and Kankpul-1) is complete. Determination of mature stage for the economic exploitation is through detailed analysis of data. Thereafter, mandatory approvals such as Field Development Plan (FDP), grant of Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) by Centre and State Government, and actual field development are required which typically takes three to four years.

(c) & (d) As per initial laboratory studies, Crude Oil discovered in the Ashoknagar discovery is a light variety with American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity of 40-41° and is almost similar to Bombay High and Brent Crude.
