

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

**RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO.71  
ANSWERED ON 29-07-2024**

**OIL EXPLORATION WORK AT ASHOKNAGAR OIL BLOCK BY ONGC**

\*71. Shri Samik Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

- (a) the details on the completion of exploration work at the Ashoknagar oil block in North 24 Parganas by ONGC;
- (b) the extent of significance of the location of the development wells in relation to the Ashoknagar I area and the presence of oil and gas reserves in the region;
- (c) the insights into ONGC's outlook for the next five years in terms of growth and development opportunities in North 24 Parganas and beyond; and
- (d) the specific regions that ONGC is targeting for exploration and development within North 24 Parganas and West Bengal, and the strategies in place to ensure successful operations in these areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.71 FOR REPLY ON 29-07-2024 REGARDING OIL EXPLORATION WORK AT ASHOKNAGAR OIL BLOCK BY ONGC ASKED BY SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA.**

(a) During the Phase-I period of New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) Block: WB-ONN-2005/4 (Asokenagar), ONGC has completed exploratory works which *inter alia* include the following:

- 2D seismic surveys – 1047 LKM
- 3D seismic surveys– 1321 SKM
- 2D seismic data reprocessing – 3831 LKM
- 3D seismic data reprocessing – 250 SKM
- Drilling of five exploratory wells namely Patuli-1 (hydrocarbon indication), Matikumra-1(Dry), Asokenagar-1 (oil & gas), Asokenagar-2 (gas) & Kankpul-1 (gas).
- Two hydrocarbon discoveries, namely Asokenagar-1 and Kankpul-1 were notified in 2018 and 2022 respectively.

ONGC undertook further work and drilled one exploratory well. The said well Ranaghat-2 drilled during 2023-24 proved to be gas bearing and was also notified as a discovery on 15.04.2024.

ONGC has further completed acquisition of another 336 SKM 3D seismic data (Planned 328 SKM) and also drilled two appraisal wells.

In order to monetize the Asokenagar Oil, an Early Development Plan (EDP) was approved covering an area of 5.88 SKM for which Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) application was submitted by ONGC to West Bengal Government on 10.09.2020. The prior recommendation in this regard was conveyed to Govt. of West Bengal by M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas on 21.10.2020. This was followed by the request letter dated 01.02.2023 and D.O. letter dated 12.01.2024 from Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to Govt of West Bengal. The issue was also discussed in the Eastern Zonal Council meeting held on 04.07.2024 held at Ranchi where the Govt of West Bengal was also represented. The PML grant is, however, still awaited from Govt of West Bengal, thereby holding up pace of field development.

(b) Based on the recent performances of the Block, which includes the consecutive successes of the wells Asokenagar-1, Asokenagar-2, Kankpul-1, Bhurkunda-1 and Ranaghat-2, it has been inferred that the area in and around Asokenagar-1 possibly holds good prospectivity. Recently, on the basis of latest data availability and analysis, an area of 99.06 SKM has been carved out into an integrated Field Development Plan (FDP) for developing Oil and Gas Discovery of Asokenagar-1. This Field

Development Plan of Asokenagar-1 discovery has been approved by Government on 10-07-2024. As per FDP, Oil Initially In Place (“OIIP”) is 0.72 MMT and Gas Initially In Place (“GIIP”) is 169.66 MMm<sup>3</sup>.

(c) & (d) Besides NELP Block WB-ONN-2005/4 (Asokenagar Oil Block), ONGC has acreage holding through 4 OALP Blocks, namely, BP-ONHP-2018/1 (covering North & South Parganas districts), BP-ONHP-2019/1 & 2019/2 (covering East & West Midnapore districts) and BP-ONHP-2021/1 (covering Nadia, Murshidabad & Burdwan districts), spanning an area of 11,615 SKM where exploration activities have been planned in line with standard industry practices. All 4 blocks are in West Bengal.

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