

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 268

TO BE ANSWERED ON 5.02.2018

ONGC Project in Tamil Nadu

268. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the claims of the people of Kathiramangalam and Neduvasal, Tamil Nadu that environmental degradation and land and ground water pollution occurs because of ONGC projects and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the measures taken by the Government/ONGC to protect and prevent the environmental degradations and land and ground water pollution;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extract Methane or any other Hydrocarbon in the Cauvery Delta Region and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to declare the Cauvery Delta region as "Protected Agricultural Zone" to prevent further installation and implementation of environmentally hazardous industrial projects in the cauvery delta region and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में मंत्री

(श्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान)

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) & (b): Under Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy bid round 2016, the Government has approved award of 31 contract areas including Neduvasal, Tamil Nadu contract area to the successful bidders for early development of fields. Subsequently, some local people/organizations, have submitted representations objecting to the award of above discovered small field expressing apprehension regarding possible environmental impact.

For starting any petroleum activity, operator of the field awarded under DSF has to obtain or get the requisite Mining Lease transferred from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited through the State Government. After the grant/transfer of lease, to start any

actual operations the operator will have to get requisite environmental clearances from State Government / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change by following the prescribed process. The awarded projects are taken up for production only after following the requisite process including obtaining environmental clearances.

ONGC is not starting any new project in Kathiramangalam village, Thanjavur.

Further, ONGC has been carrying Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in Cauvery Basin including Neduvasal, Tamil Nadu for more than 50 years and no adverse effect have been noticed in respect of agriculture and ecology. Besides, ONGC is also working for socio-economic development of the region under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

(c) & (d) Exploration and Production activities in the Cauvery Delta region are limited to production of convention oil and gas resources. There are no Coal Bed Methane (CBM)/Shale gas activities going on in the State of Tamil Nadu. ONGC is neither carrying out nor having any plans for exploitation of Shale gas, Shale oil or CBM in Cauvery Basin. Further, Exploration and Production activities are coexisting with agriculture not only in Tamil Nadu but also in several delta regions in the other parts of the country.
