

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 745
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2022

Effects of Baghjan Oilfield Blowout

745. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the effect of the Baghjan Oilfield blowout on the nearby Dibru Saikhowa National Park and Maguri-Motapung Beel wetland, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has continued to provide environmental clearance for drilling and testing of hydrocarbons in seven locations under Dibru Saikhowa National Park; and
- (c) whether the Government justifies exempting projects using Extended Reach Drilling from seeking clearance as proposed in recent amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) conducted study through Wild Life Institute of India to assess the impact of the blowout in surrounding areas covering Dibru Saikhowa National Park, Maguri-Motapung Beel Wetland. The MoEFCC also assisted the Expert Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal to look into the adverse impacts of the blowout. Before the blowout incident, the MoEFCC had issued environmental clearance to M/s Oil India Limited on 11-May-2020 for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at seven (7) locations under Dibru Saikhowa National park area. The Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) technology is an environment friendly process, which enables exploration or extraction of oil & natural gas beneath the forestland by accessing the reserves from outside the forest areas.
