

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

NoC for Hydrocarbon/Gas Exploration Projects

128. KM. SUDHA R:

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

- (a) the number of Environmental Clearance given to Hydrocarbon Projects in the Cauvery Delta Districts, especially Mayiladuthurai and Thanjavur during the last five years;
- (b) the details of number of applications pending for seeking No-Objection Certificate (NOC) or Environmental Clearance for Hydrocarbon or Gas Exploration Projects in the said districts during the last five years along with the list of locations and the companies that have sought permission for explorations; and
- (c) whether there is any central policy to declare Delta districts as protected zone and to ban oil and gas exploration projects in view of Delta districts being declared as special agricultural zone by the State Government of Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a): No fresh Environmental Clearance (EC) to Hydrocarbon Projects in the Cauvery Delta Districts, especially Mayiladuthurai and Thanjavur, has been granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during the last five years. However, MoEF&CC has granted extension of EC validity for three project during last five years.

(b): The following three proposals seeking Environmental Clearance (EC) for Hydrocarbon projects under B2 category, as per MoEF&CC notification dated 16.01.2020 during last five years, are pending with SEIAA, Tamil Nadu:

- (i) M/s. ONGC proposal for Drilling of Exploratory wells 20Nos in CY-ONHP-2018/3 OALP Block in Ramanathapuram District.
- (ii) M/s. Vedanta Limited (Division Cairn Oil & Gas), Proposal CY-OSHP-2017/2 Hydrocarbon Block located in the coast of Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts in Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District of Puducherry in Bay of Bengal.
- (iii) M/s. Vedanta Limited (Division Cairn Oil & Gas), Proposal CY-OSHP-2017/1 Hydrocarbon Block located in the coast of Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts in Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry in Bay of Bengal.

(c): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notifies certain areas as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)/ Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) to address the need of special protection under the provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986, based on proposal received from

the State government. There is no such proposal received in the Ministry from the Tamil Nadu State Government. Further, Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons in India is administered by The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and its attendant PNG rules, 1959 (as amended from time to time) which do not have any such provision.
