

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2502**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**Petroleum Mining Lease for Ashoknagar Oil Field**

**2502. Shri Jagannath Sarkar:**

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) for the Ashoknagar Oil field has now been granted by the West Bengal Government and if so, the details thereof along with the date of approval and terms of the lease;
- (b) the reasons for the delay of over four years in granting the PML, the estimated financial and production loss due to the non-implementation of the Early Development Plan (EDP);
- (c) the status of the integrated Field Development Plan (FDP) covering 99.06 sq. km. and the projected oil and gas production timeline; and
- (d) whether the production has commenced at the Ashoknagar Oil field and if not, the reasons for the delay despite the approval of the PML?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) Yes, West Bengal Government vide letter dated 24th Feb, 2025 has issued Provisional Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) to M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for an area of 99.06 Sq. Km. for the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Block WB-ONN-2005/4 for a period of 11 years. Terms and conditions of the lease, include, inter-alia, acquisition of land by ONGC in compliance of laws and policies, seeking prior approval of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence in case of entrusting the task to international companies or foreigners, such other terms and conditions as the State Government may determine from time to time depending on the exigencies and in public interest, etc.

(b) Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, the State Government is empowered to grant Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) with the prior recommendation of the Central Government. The application for PML was made in 10.09.2020, based on Early Development Plan (EDP) considering the single well, Asokenagar-1 (discovery well) for an area (5.88 sq. km. subsequently increased to 99.06 sq. km.). The recommendation of the Central Government for Grant of PML was conveyed to State Government of West Bengal on 21.10.2020,

followed by Government of India subsequent reminder letters dated 01.02.2023 and 12.01.2024. The matter was also flagged to the Government of West Bengal in the Eastern Zonal Council Meeting held on 04.07.2024. In the absence of PML, the Operator continued with the appraisal/exploratory drilling activities and established hydrocarbon presence in other wells namely Kanpul-1, Bhurkunda-1 and Ranaghat-2. Provisional PML was subsequently granted by State Government of West Bengal on 24.02.2025.

As per EDP production profile, in the first 4 years there was an envisaged production of 18274 m<sup>3</sup> of oil. The well Asokenagar-1 was put on test production in December 2020. Actual production of ~ 352 m<sup>3</sup> was realized in the well during extended testing from December 2020 to July 2022. As the PML was delayed, production from the well had to be deferred. As the PML has now been granted, the monetization of remaining 17922 m<sup>3</sup> of oil is a part of future production plan for the block.

(c) & (d) Integrated Field Development Plan of Asokenagar-1 discovery has been approved by Government on 10.07.2024. The provisional PML was issued by State Government on 24.02.2025. The production of oil and gas in sync with activities approved under FDP, is projected within 10 and 17 months respectively, post execution of the deed.

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