

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06 FEBRUARY, 2025

Oil Exploration Activities along Kerala Coast

596: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken or approved any oil exploration activities along the Kerala Coast;
- (b) if so, the details of the exploration projects, including the areas identified, companies involved and timeline for completion;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent so far on these projects;
- (d) whether any environmental impact assessment have been conducted for these activities, and if so, the findings thereof;
- (e) the measures being taken to address concerns of coastal communities and stakeholders regarding the environmental and economic impact of oil exploration; and
- (f) the anticipated outcomes of the exploration in terms of oil and gas reserves, economic benefits and energy security for the country?

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) to (c): Exploration and Production contracts have been awarded by the Government in the Kerala Konkan Basin under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) bid rounds. Details of the blocks are given in **Annexure–A**. The cumulative expenditure by the operators in the NELP blocks is approximately USD 689.455 Million.

(d) & (e): Environmental clearances, including coastal zone clearances for oil and gas exploration as per the laws for the time being in force are essential before commencement of the activities. This typically involves an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study after the award. The EIA process involves public hearing and ensures proper assessment of exploration activities on environment and only after obtaining necessary environmental clearances, with necessary safeguards measures for environmental protection and compliance, can companies commence exploration activities. Exploration and Production activities are undertaken in synergy with steps to enhance the livelihood of the people in the region as well as to ensure minimal impact on the environment.

(f): No Discovery was made in the blocks awarded under NELP regime. All the three Blocks awarded under OALP regime in Kerala Konkan Basin are under initial stages of exploration.

1. Details of blocks awarded under NELP regime:

S.No.	Block Name	Round	Signing Year	Area Awarded	Operator
1	KK-DWN-2000/1	NELP - II	2002	18113	Reliance Industries Ltd.
2	KK-DWN-2000/2	NELP - II	2002	20998	ONGC Ltd.
3	KK-DWN-2000/3	NELP - II	2002	14889	Reliance Industries Ltd.
4	KK-DWN-2000/4	NELP - II	2002	26149	ONGC Ltd.
5	KK-DWN-2001/1	NELP - III	2003	27315	Reliance Industries Ltd.
6	KK-DWN-2001/2	NELP - III	2003	31515	Reliance Industries Ltd.
7	KK-DWN-2001/3	NELP - III	2003	21775	ONGC Ltd.
8	KK-DWN-2002/2	NELP - IV	2004	22810	ONGC Ltd.
9	KK-DWN-2002/3	NELP - IV	2004	20910	ONGC Ltd.
10	KK-DWN-2003/1	NELP - V	2005	18245	Reliance Industries Ltd.
11	KK-DWN-2003/2	NELP - V	2005	12285	Reliance Industries Ltd.
12	KK-DWN-2004/1	NELP - VI	2007	12324	ONGC Ltd.
13	KK-DWN-2005/1	NELP - VII	2008	14675	BHP Billiton
14	KK-DWN-2005/2	NELP - VII	2008	19234	ONGC Ltd.
15	KK-OSN-2000/1	NELP - II	2001	16125	ONGC Ltd.
16	KK-OSN-2001/2	NELP - III	2003	14120	ONGC Ltd.
17	KK-OSN-2001/3	NELP - III	2003	8595	ONGC Ltd.
18	KK-OSN-97/2	NELP - I	2000	19450	Reliance Industries Ltd.
19	KK-OSN-97/3	NELP - I	2000	15910	ONGC Ltd.

Note:

- i. The blocks awarded were in Shallow waters and Deep waters. No onland blocks were awarded.
- ii. All blocks awarded, as above, are relinquished and non-operational. Currently, no exploration related activities are in progress.

2. Details of blocks awarded under OALP regime: -

S.NO.	Block	OALP Round	Year	Area Awarded (sq.km)	Contractor	Type Of Block	Timelines as per Policy
1	KK-OSHP-2018/1	OALP-III	2019	3519.69	Oil India Limited	shallow water	3 years
2	KK-DWHP-2022/1	OALP-VIII	2022	1112.71	ONGC Limited	deep water	4 years
3	KK-OSHP-2022/1	OALP-VIII	2022	6717.56	ONGC Limited	shallow water	3 years

Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons
