

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026**

ONGC Oil Well Blowout in Andhra Pradesh

79. Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- a) Whether the Government is aware that the oil well blowout in Andhra Pradesh occurred during operations carried out by a private contractor under ONGC supervision, if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether mandatory safety audits, equipment certifications, pressure testing and real-time monitoring by ONGC officials were in place at the site, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons of the occurrence of blowout;
- c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on any ONGC officials or contractors for negligence, if so, the details thereof; and
- d) the action taken against those found responsible and the measures already taken and proposed to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future ONGC operations?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

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

(a): On 05.01.2026, a gas leak followed by fire occurred during the workover operation in well Mori#5 of the Mori-5 field in Andhra Pradesh. This ONGC field was being operated by a private contractor (M/s Deep Exploration Services Private Ltd.) (DESPL) since 03.04.2025 under a 15 years Production Enhancement Contract (PEC). ONGC with its in-house expertise and capabilities controlled the fire and capped and subdued the well in 5 days, i.e. on 10.01.2026. No loss of life or injury was reported in the disaster.

(b) to (d): Since handing over the fields to the operator, regular safety audits/inspections are being conducted by Statutory Authorities like Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS). DGMS inspected Workover Rig DR-11 in November, 2025. There are adequate and comprehensive safeguards inbuilt in the PEC to ensure that the contractor has total accountability and responsibility for ensuring the safety of operations and environmental safeguard and corrections carried out based on cumulative learnings from such episodes.
