

EXPLORATION OF CRUDE OIL

New Delhi: December 17, 2009

The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply today that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited(ONGC) and Oil India Limited(OIL) are carrying out crude oil and natural gas exploration related activities on South Banks of Brahmaputra River in the areas awarded to them on nomination basis.

He added that OIL is also carrying out exploration and production activities on South Bank of Brahmaputra River in the areas awarded to OIL on nomination basis. On the South Bank of Brahmaputra River OIL has carried out a 2D survey of 229.19 GLKM and 3D survey of 718.915 SKM in the year 2008-09. The Minister informed that the details of the crude oil extracted by OIL in the region in the last three years are 3.061 MMT in 2006-07, 3.06 MMT in 2007-08 and 3.432 MMT in 2008-09 and the royalty paid to the Government of Assam during the period is Rs. 1,237.01 crores for 2006-07, Rs. 1426.71 crores for 2007-08 and Rs. 1300.84 crores for 2008-09.

ONGC holds one exploration acreage viz. Sivasagar District PEL on the South Bank of the River Brahmaputra, where they have acquired 454 sq km of 3D seismic data and drilled 30 wells in the present regrant cycle as on 1st October, 2009. However, production has not been initiated in the block.

In reply to another query, the Minister informed that in so far as ONGC and OIL is concerned, the reserves (3P) of crude oil is 216.68 MMT.