



Association of Scientific & Technical Officers

Registered with the Registrar of Societies, Uttarakhand Govt., Regd. No. 172 (1967-68)

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED, Mumbai

ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, मुंबई



S. K. SRIVASTAVA
PRESIDENT
9969229529

SHASHI PRAKASH PANDEY
VICE PRESIDENT
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RENU NAIR
JT. SECRETARY
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JT. SECRETARY (OFFSHORE)
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Ref. - ASTO/MUM/Chairman & CEO/25/2024

Date: 04.10.2024

To,
Chairman & CEO,
DUB,
ONGC Ltd.,
New Delhi.

Subject: Shortage of Helicopters in Western Offshore Unit

Respected Sir,

ASTO, the representative body of Executives, would like to express the concerns and challenges faced by our offshore employees in the Western Offshore Unit (WOU) regarding the acute shortage of helicopters, which has severely impacted the efficiency of aviation logistics for offshore installations and rigs. Given the fact that WOU is the highest-producing unit of ONGC, it is very important to address this issue promptly to maintain operational efficiency and productivity.

Historically, the WOU was supported by at least 22 helicopters to manage daily offshore operations. However, over a period of time this number has reduced and is expected to decline further. The reduced number of helicopters is leading to delay in well production monitoring, major contractual works on unmanned platforms and affecting overall production targets. Helicopter shortage has also caused operational delays and delayed crew change schedules, leading to significant frustration among our workforce, which has also raised serious concerns about health, safety and operations.

Western Offshore operations require an increased number of helicopters for the following reasons:

- Impact on Critical Operations and Projects:** Many of our offshore fields are aging and require frequent maintenance and construction support. The limited availability of helicopters has delayed the mobilization of manpower to unmanned platforms, slowing down critical projects and routine maintenance tasks, such as well intervention and stimulation.
- Safety and Efficiency in Offshore Operations:** Helicopters enable our teams to reach Offshore Platforms quickly and safely. Without adequate helicopter availability, there have been delays in maintenance and project execution, often leading to extended shutdowns.



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- Critical Role of Helicopters in Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations:** Helicopters are indispensable in emergency situations, especially for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. The lack of sufficient helicopters compromises ONGC's ability to respond quickly to emergencies, posing serious risks to the safety of our offshore personnel.
- Delays in Transfer of Specialized Personnel and Equipment:** Helicopters are crucial for the rapid transfer of specialized personnel, equipment and spare parts to offshore platforms, minimizing delays and bottlenecks in offshore operations. Fast Crew Boats cannot provide the speed and flexibility needed for these critical tasks. Moreover, the specialized personnel of OEMs don't travel by boats as per their company policy.
- Maintaining Production from Unmanned Platforms:** A significant portion of ONGC's production comes from unmanned platforms, where regular maintenance is essential due to the aging infrastructure. The scarcity of helicopters has led to delays in visiting marginal field wellheads, hampering production and project execution timelines.

In light of the points mentioned above, ASTO Mumbai requests your reconsideration to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of helicopters for Western Offshore operations. By increasing the helicopter fleet, ONGC will not only safeguard operational efficiency and productivity but also ensure the safety and well-being of its dedicated workforce.

With Kind Regards,


S K Srivastava
President,
ASTO Mumbai

CC:

1. Director (T&FS)
2. Director (P)
3. Director (E)
4. ED-Western Offshore
5. ED - EO to Chairman & CEO