

RIL 'pilfered' ONGC gas, says D&M

New Delhi: US-based consultant D&M in a draft report has stated that at least 9 billion cubic meters of natural gas worth around Rs 9,000 crore may have migrated from ONGC's idling Bay of Bengal fields to adjoining KG-D6 fields of Reliance Industries. DeGolyer and MacNaughton (D&M) on Friday submitted to the two firms as well as the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons a draft report stating that ONGC's Godavari Block (known as G-4) is contiguous to RIL-operated Block KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6). The parties will now

get an opportunity to comment on the draft findings before D&M prepares the final report. Officials said D&M is of the opinion that there exists one big gas resource several meters below sea bed which extends from G-4 to KG-D6. DGH had erred in drawing the boundaries of blocks by ignoring the seismic data on presence of the reservoir and drew lines that bifurcated the reservoir rather than making it part of one block. ONGC had in 2013 claimed that RIL had deliberately drilled wells close to the common boundary of

the blocks and that some gas it pumped out was from its adjoining block. D&M opined that since ONGC had not produced a single drop of gas since making the discovery way back in 2002, some of its share of gas may have flown out of KG-D6 block. RIL started production from KG-D6 in April 2009.

D&M believes at least 9 billion cubic meters of gas belonging to ONGC could have migrated to KG-D6 wells. This gas at \$4.2 per million British thermal unit price is worth Rs 8,675 crore. PTI