

Outside Expert Committee (OEC) - Conciliation:

ONGC has been pioneer in introduction of system for resolution of disputes by conciliation process, by an Outside Expert Committee (OEC) which is a voluntary process conducted in a cost effective manner and timely manner. Since, 2011, the conciliation clause is part of the Standard Contract Conditions. The conciliation mechanism through OEC in ONGC is in line with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which is based on Model rules of UNCITRAL), foreign bidders/vendors also have acceptance for the same.

ONGC believes that Conciliation is the flagship of the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) movement. In conciliation the emphasis is on cooperation and communication, on sustainable solutions, this is a win-win for all parties.

Success Story OF OEC: The OEC mechanism has been well-received by the industry and business partners of ONGC. Large number of parties, ranging from major multinationals to small domestic contractors, opted to resolve their disputes through OEC and even high-value disputes were successfully resolved.

As on date, ONGC has settled 154 cases out of 201 cases decided through OEC. Thus, the overall success ratio of settlement comes out to be **78%**.

Conciliation Mechanism of ONGC adopted by Other PSU's: The success of ONGC resolving commercial disputes through the conciliation mechanism and its benefits it have been taken note by other PSU's as well and PSUs like GAIL, IOCL, OIL, EIL etc. have also adopted the conciliation mechanism successfully. This knowledge sharing has proven to be instrumental in reducing the litigation and arbitration in energy sector. OEC in ONGC has proven to be successful in reaching amicable solutions, in a cost effective way and expeditiously.

Committee of Secretaries under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary considered the OEC policy of ONGC and advised that Administrative Ministries/ Departments/ CPSEs may consider introducing conciliation procedure involving experts, as is done by ONGC & appreciated the model ONGC.

Recently, Asia Pacific Center for Arbitration and Conciliation (APCAM) at its first international ADR summit held on 6-7th May, 2023 bestowed ONGC with award for being the "*Leading Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) User 2023*" for its contributions to ADR.