

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3874
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
EXPERTISE IN DIFFERENT FIELDS OF OIL SECTOR
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the Oil Companies to build core competence and synergies and expertise in different fields of oil sector.
- (b) If so, the response of the public sector oil companies thereto;
- (c) The steps taken by the Union Government to convert the public sector oil companies into real power house of the country's economy; and
- (d) The number of blocks awarded to oil companies under the NLEP during the last one year, till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATIRAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): Evaluation of options for improving the core competence of public sector oil companies and to synergies their expertise is a continuous process. In this context, meetings with the Chief Executives of the Public Sector Oil Companies are also held regularly in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. While deliberating on the core competence of the public sector oil companies in the context of the liberalization of policy for oil industry in the country, Chief Executives of public sector oil companies have also discussed various options of developing an integrated approach to business growth and diversification. The endeavor, inter-alia, is that the Oil Companies utilize their resources optimally by remaining focused in their core business instead of competing amongst themselves, especially for projects abroad. While there is a proposal to set up a six member Committee to advise the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Synergy in Energy, including issues relating to oil sector PSUs, no formal decision in this regard has been taken so far.

(d): During 2003-04, 20 blocks have been awarded under NELP-IV to various Joint Ventures.