

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:585

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005

BIDS TO OIL AND GAS BLOCKS

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Government has invited bids for 20 oil and gas blocks in the fifth round under the New Exploration Licensing Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of the bidders; and
- (d) the decision taken for allotment of oil and gas blocks in the said round?

Answer

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

(a)&(b):- Yes Sir. Government have invited bids for exploration and production of oil & gas in 20 blocks i.e. 12 onland, 2 shallow offshore and 6 deep water blocks under the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(c) The response of the bidders can be known only after the bid closure date on 31.05.05. However, several companies have been visiting the data rooms set up for the purpose.

(d) The NELP, approved in 1997, provides a level playing field for both Private and Public Sector Undertakings for award of exploration acreages through global competitive bidding. The bids are decided by the Government on the basis of a transparent quantitative bid evaluation criteria. We expect to announce the award by the end of July, 2005 and sign the contracts towards the end of September or early October.