

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1230
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009
OIL EXPLORATION POLICY
Choudhary Shri Harish

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

- (a) the policy for awarding oil exploration blocks in reserved areas or environmentally protected areas;
- (b) whether there is any blocks which has been awarded in reserved areas on land or off shore in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the status of oil exploration in desert National Park in Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) The exploration blocks for oil and gas are offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) based on `in principle` clearances from relevant Ministries including Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF). Operators are also required to obtain environmental clearances from MOEF and other statutory clearances before commencement of any activity in the awarded blocks.
- (b) & (c). In some of the awarded blocks under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, the block area partly falls in the reserved areas or environmentally protected areas. Therefore, environmental clearances have not been granted in these blocks for carrying out exploration activities. The details are annexed.
- (d) No exploration activities have been carried out in desert National Park in Rajasthan.