

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4522
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2009
BIDS INVITED UNDER THE OPEN AREA LICENSING POLICY
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme to invite bids under the open area licensing policy for oil and gas exploration in the country;
- (b) if so, the intention of the Government behind implementing Open Area Licensing Policy (OALP);
- (c) whether the Government has initiated National Data Depository for making available the information about oil and gas blocks to the bidders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of benefits likely to be accrued as a result of the new policies in the field of Oil and Gas exploration?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Government has not firmed up guidelines to invite bids under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

(c) to (e) Yes Madam. A Global Tender has been floated by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) on 13.11.2009 to build, populate and operate a National Data Repository (NDR) in India. The bid closing date is 18th January, 2010.

NDR is meant for storing and maintaining hydrocarbon exploration and production data in a safe and reusable manner, in perpetuity and make them available for all the stakeholders in the field of oil & gas exploration.