

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1212

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2010

ALLOCATION OF NEW AREAS FOR EXPLORATION UNDER NELP

Singh Shri Rajnath

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

(a) whether the Government has carved out new areas for exploration on offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM);

(b) if so, the total number of those areas which have resulted in oil and gas discoveries and the time-frame within which they are expected to commence production; and

(c) the total quantity of expected production of crude oil from these areas?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam. Government of India has awarded 203 exploration blocks covering an area of about 1.39 Million Sq.Km. under seven rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far. Further, under the eighth bid round of NELP (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks covering an area of about 0.16 Million Sq. Km. were offered for bidding. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks.

Similarly, under three rounds of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy held so far, 23 CBM blocks covering an area of 12,955 Sq. Km. were awarded. In the fourth bid round of CBM (CBM-IV), 10 blocks covering an area of 4965 Sq. Km. were offered out of which 27 bids were received for 8 blocks.

(b). So far, 77 discoveries (22 oil & 55 gas) have been made in 23 blocks awarded under NELP. Commercial production of oil/gas has commenced from 6 such discoveries. Remaining discoveries are under various stages of evaluation/appraisal and development. The oil and gas production from these discoveries will depend on their Commerciality and subsequent Development Plan.

(c). As per the approved Field Development Plan, the estimated oil production from two oil discoveries under NELP which have already been put on production is to the tune of 55 Million barrels.