

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1278
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2010
BID FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a poor response to the recent round of auctions conducted by the Government for oil and gas exploration;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether in view of poor response the Government proposes to allocate gas and oil blocks under NELP-VIII to the State owned agencies such as ONGC, Oil India Limited (OIL)etc., and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b). Out of 70 blocks offered under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 36 blocks. The response can not be considered as poor in view of global economic melt-down and also in comparison to the responses received by several other countries during recent bidding rounds. According to preliminary estimates, the committed investment in NELP- VIII is about US \$ 1.34 billion, which is more than the committed investment of US \$ 1.22 billion in NELP-VII.

(c) and (d). Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), blocks for exploration of oil and gas are offered through international competitive bidding process. National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private companies bid on a level playing field on transparent Bid Evaluation Criteria(BEC). The blocks are awarded to the eligible companies which get the maximum points on quantifiable BEC.