

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:615

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010

AUCTION OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION BLOCKS UNDER NELP

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning for auction of the oil and gas exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to increase the production of crude oil and natural gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the new exploration blocks includes Surat region and rest of Gujarat;
- (d) if so? the details thereof;
- (e) whether the awarding of such blocks to companies would have any affect on ecology of the areas; and
- (f) if so, the action plan for the maintenance of the ecological balance at these places?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b) The eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 09-04-2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered under NELP-VIII. Bids were opened on 12-10-2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks.

(c) & (d): 2 shallow water blocks in Gujarat-Kutch region and 8 onland (Type-S) blocks in Cambay Basin of Gujarat were offered under NELP-VIII.

(e) & (f): No, Madam, Blocks are awarded after obtaining necessary clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests and operator carries out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study before starting Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in the awarded blocks.