

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6678
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010
ALLOCATION OF BLOCKS UNDER NELP
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether in the recently concluded auction the Government has approved the award of 33 out of the 36 exploration areas that were bid round under the New Exploration Licensing Policy VIII;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the decision to award 33 blocks under NELP VIII to the first ranked/sole, bidders was based on recommendations made by the Empowered Committee of Secretaries; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not awarding to all the on-land blocks and the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be considered?

Answer

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

(a) to (d). Yes Madam, on the recommendations of Empowered Committee of Secretaries(ECS), the Government has approved the award of 33 blocks to the first ranked/sole bidder. The two onland blocks, VN-ONN-2009/1 & VN-ONN-2009/2 were not considered for award under NELP-VIII in view of very low percentage share of profit petroleum offered to the Government which may be detrimental to Government's interest in future.

The award of another onland block AA-OKN-2009/2 under NELP-VIII was kept in abeyance in view of representation received from the bidder. On the recommendation of ECS and after getting approval of Government, this block is likely to be awarded shortly.