GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:778
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION
Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

(a) whether the Government is encouraging participation of the private sector including foreign companies in exploration, production and transportation network for Petroleum and Natural Gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of agreement signed during the last three years and the current year in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Government has encouraged Private and Foreign participation in New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane(CBM) Policy bidding rounds by providing attractive contractual and fiscal terms and a level playing field.

Out of the 235 blocks awarded under eight rounds of NELP so far, 100 blocks were awarded to Private and Foreign Companies as Operators. Further, out of 36 oil/gas producing fields/blocks under the PSC regime, 33 fields/blocks are currently being operated by Private and Foreign Companies.

Similarly, out of 23 CBM blocks awarded under three rounds of CBM held so far, 16 blocks were contracted to Private and Foreign Companies as Operators.

Under the PSC regime, during the last three years and current year, till July, 10, a total of 73 blocks were contracted under NELP VII & VIII rounds. Out of these, 33 blocks were contracted to Private and Foreign companies as Operators.

Government has allowed participation of private sector, including foreign companies, in transportation of natural gas. During the last three years, Government has authorized a private company Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd (RGTIL) for laying the following pipelines:-

(i) Kakinada-Basudebpur-Howrah Gas Pipeline

(ii) Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai Pipeline

(iii) Chennai-Tuticorin Pipeline

(iv) Chennai-Bagalore-Manglore Pipeline.