

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1873
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010
ALLOCATION OF OIL BLOCKS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for allocation of Blocks for exploration of Oil and Gas to the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. on nomination basis in the areas of Saurashtra and Kutch Regions of the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) and (b). A proposal was received in February, 2008 from Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat for allocation of oil and gas blocks on nomination basis in the Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPC), a nodal agency of Government of Gujarat.

Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), blocks are offered through international competitive bidding process. Even National Oil Companies, viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are not awarded blocks on nomination basis as they have to compete with other private/public sector companies under NELP. In view of NELP, the request of Government of Gujarat for allocation of blocks on nomination basis to GSPC, in the areas of Saurashtra and Kutch regions was not acceded to.