

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2010
ALLOCATION OF OIL BLOCKS UNDER OALP
Sinha Shri Yashwant

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

- (a) the details of the oil and gas blocks which have been auctioned upto 2009-2010 under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) and the total revenue earned therefrom;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to replace OALP to New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP);
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the revenue likely to be earned under NELP?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 379 for answer on 19th August, 2010 regarding Allocation of Oil Blocks under OALP.

(a) to (c). The Government has not notified Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). However, action has been initiated to establish the National Data Repository (NDR), which is a pre-requisite for formulation of OALP. Presently, oil and gas blocks are offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks under the CBM Policy. The number of oil and gas blocks offered under these policies are 360.

(d) The actual revenues from the blocks awarded under NELP depend on several factors, such as exploration success leading to commercial discoveries, subsequent field development and petroleum prices etc.

So far, 6 oil/gas discoveries in three NELP blocks have been put on commercial production. During the year 2009-10, profit petroleum of about Rs.118 crores and royalty of about Rs. 455 crores were paid to the Central Government from the above blocks.