

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5831  
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011  
DEEP WATER OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION  
Rajukhedi Shri Gajendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the government has any proposal to allow the entry of major players having experience in deep water oil and gas exploration in the petroleum sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being contemplated by the Government to ensure that approval for oil and gas deep water explorations are expedited in national interest?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) & (b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), bids are invited through International Competitive Bidding System for exploration of hydrocarbons in the country including deep water areas. Major players having experience in exploration of Oil and Gas in deep water can participate in NELP bidding rounds.

At present, the following Operators, including few major deepwater players, are operating in deep-water blocks, under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime.

1. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd(ONGC)
2. Reliance Industries Ltd
3. BHP Billiton Petroleum, Australia
4. Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd, UK.
5. British Petroleum Exploration (Alpha) UK
6. British Gas Exploration & Production (India) Ltd, UK
7. Santos International Operations Pty Ltd, Australia.
8. ENI (India) Ltd, Italy.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The exploration Work Programme and Budget in the awarded deepwater blocks are reviewed by the Management Committee (MC) as per provisions and timelines stipulated in Production Sharing Contracts (PSC).