

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2493  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011  
CONTRACTS FOR EXPLORATION OF GAS  
Rama Devi Smt. ;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring a Bill to grant contracts for exploration of gas in the country to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) only;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(b) No, Madam. Government is not contemplating to bring any Bill to grant contracts for exploration of oil & gas in the country only to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

(c) After the implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1999, all blocks for hydrocarbon exploration are awarded to national oil companies and private companies including foreign companies through international competitive bidding. NELP provides equal opportunity and level playing field to all companies. No block is awarded on nomination basis under the NELP regime.