

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1390  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012  
EXPLORATION WORK  
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government has stalled exploration work on several offshore oil and gas fields which are critical to India's energy security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

Minister of state in the Ministry of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c) The exploration work on several offshore oil and gas fields is stopped/ restricted at different stages on account of pendency of clearances from various Government agencies such as Ministry of Defence (MoD), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Department of Space (DoS) etc.

Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) Regime, currently exploration activities in 6 Blocks in Eastern Offshore, 9 Blocks in Western Offshore and one Block in Andaman Offshore are affected due to non-availability of clearances from concerned Government agencies.

From time to time, the Ministry coordinates with other Government agencies to obtain necessary statutory clearances.