

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3715  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009  
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION  
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government is giving thrust to oil and gas exploration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the future plan prepared for the current five year plan?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. At present, area under exploration is about 50% of Indian Sedimentary Basins. At the end of XI plan, it is targeted to cover 80% of total Indian Sedimentary Basins, under exploration.

With a view to enhance exploration of more oil and gas, eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) and fourth round of Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM-IV) were launched on 09th April 2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) have been offered under NELP-VIII. 10 Blocks have been offered for exploration and production of CBM under CBM-IV.