

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3829
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2009
EXPLORATION HOLIDAY FOR PETROLEUM COMPANIES
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the leading petroleum companies sought a break from exploratory activity in the already awarded deep water blocks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Union Government is considering a proposal for granting exploration holiday to these companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage in oil production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) to (d) No, Madam. However, operators in some deep water blocks have requested government for consideration of a drilling moratorium for a period of three years.
- (e) Government has taken following measures to enhance oil/gas production in the country.
 - (i) Awarding more blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
 - (ii) Putting new discoveries on fast track development
 - (iii) Implementation of EOR/IOR schemes and infill drilling
 - (iv) Work over and well stimulation of sick wells
 - (v) Development of alternate source of energy such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), gas hydrates etc.