

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5739  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012  
CLEARANCE FOR EXPLORATION OF OIL BLOCKS  
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether the exploration in about eighty oil and gas blocks with an investment of Rupees 13.5 billion was held up for many years due to the non-availability of clearances;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b). Under the Production Sharing Contract(PSC) regime, exploration and development activities in 80 blocks in onland and offshore areas have been affected due to non availability of clearances from various agencies such as Ministry of Defence (MoD), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Department of Space (DoS), State Government etc.. The investments already incurred by the Contractor(s) in the affected blocks for carrying out various exploration activities works out to the tune of US\$ 13.5 Billion as on 31.03.2011. The area-wise/State-wise details of affected blocks are as under:

Area/State    No of Blocks Affected

Eastern Offshore    50

Western Offshore    16

Andaman Offshore    7

Rajasthan    2

Assam    1

Nagaland    3

Gujarat 1

Total 80

(c) The issue has been taken up by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP & NG) with the concerned authorities. Out of the above 80 blocks, clearance in respect of 14 blocks (11 in Eastern offshore and 3 in Andaman Offshore) has been accorded by DRDO in April, 2012. Further, clearance in respect of 1 block in Andaman Offshore has been accorded by DoS.