

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

LAUNCH OF NELP NINTH ROUND

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Anandan Shri K.Murugesan;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Patasani Dr.
(Prof.) Prasanna Kumar

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

- (a) the total number of blocks awarded under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) during the first eight rounds under Production Sharing Contract (PSC), block-wise and company-wise alongwith the investment made on each of the blocks by the companies;
- (b) the details of production from these blocks and the reasons, if any, for not starting exploration activities or production in any of the blocks alongwith the time frame by which the production is likely to be started;
- (c) the reasons for delay in launching of the ninth round of NELP alongwith the apprehensions expressed by various stakeholders in this regard;
- (d) the details of high level talks held by the Government regarding hurdles being faced in the commencement of work under NELP alongwith the dates of such meetings, names of the parties involved therein and the decision taken in each of these meetings; and
- (e) the time frame by which the ninth round of NELP is likely to be launched and whether parts of the Frontier basin consisting of the Himalayan foothills and Punjab plains would be included under the same?

Answer

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

- (a). So far, a total of 235 exploration blocks have been awarded under eight rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP) to various Public Sector and Private/Foreign Companies. The details of awarded blocks are given in Annexure-I. The details of investment made by each of the companies so far are given in Annexure-II.
 - (b). So far, a total of 107 hydrocarbon discoveries (37 oil and 70 gas) have been made in 36 NELP blocks. Out of these, crude oil and natural gas production has commenced from 6 discoveries in 3 NELP blocks. The current oil and gas production are about 14,000 barrels/day and 35 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) respectively. Other discoveries are under various stages of evaluation, appraisal and commerciality.
 - (c). Ninth bid round of NELP (NELP-IX) was launched on 15.10. 2010. A total of 34 blocks covering a sedimentary area of about 88,807 sq. km. were offered under NELP-IX. Bids were received for 33 blocks.
 - (d). As far as exploration activities are concerned, the activities in some of the NELP blocks have been affected due to various issues such as non-availability of clearances by various agencies such as Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Department of Space(DOS), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) etc.
- Meetings were convened by Principal Secretary to Prime Minister on 03.01.2012 and 28.02.2012 for expediting the clearances for exploration activities in various blocks under NELP. Representatives of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, MoEF, MOD, DOS, DRDO etc. participated in the Meeting. As per the decision taken in the meeting held on 03.01.2012, a Inter-Ministerial Committee is to be constituted under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for considering grant of one time clearances for exploration activities.
- (e) Ninth bid round of NELP (NELP-IX) was launched on 15.10.2010. Blocks offered under NELP IX did not include blocks in the Frontier Basins of Himalayan Foothills and Punjab Plains.