

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1016

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012

REVAMPING OF DGH

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

- (a) the details of the number of rounds of auction held under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) till date along with the time when the last round was held and the number of contracts signed so far by the Government with the oil and gas producers since the launch of first round of NELP;
- (b) whether the NELP process has helped in augmenting oil and gas production and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in the last round of auctions primarily Indian companies participated and the international companies kept away due to skepticism about sanctity of Government contracts and general uncertainty about revenue levels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to revamp the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in order to focus on strengthening its technical, legal and financial aspects; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) So far, nine rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) have been held and Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 249 exploration blocks have been signed between Government and the Contractor(s), comprising of Private/Foreign and National Oil Companies (NOCs). The last round of NELP { i.e. NELP-IX } was launched by Government on 15th October 2010 with offer of 34 blocks.

(b) Yes, Madam. NELP has been successful in accelerating the exploration and production activities as well as attracting about US\$ 20 billion investments in NELP blocks so far. Till date, total 111 discoveries ( 40 oil and 71 gas) have been made in 38 NELP blocks, including major gas discoveries in East Coast. In-Place 2P (Proved + Probable) Reserves accretion to the tune of 737 Million Metric Tonnes (Oil plus Oil Equivalent of Gas) has been realized from NELP discoveries as on 01.04.2012. Commercial oil/gas production has commenced from 6 NELP discoveries so far. The current oil and gas production from 6 NELP discoveries are about 11,300 bbl/day and 29 million Standard Cubic meter per day(MMSCMD) respectively and are likely to increase in future with the development of other discoveries.

(c ) and (d). Under NELP -IX bidding round. 74 bids for 33 blocks were received from 36 companies, including 7 (seven) foreign companies as under:

- i) Birkbeck Investments Ltd. - Mauritius
- ii) East West Petroleum Corporation - Canada
- iii) Heramec Limited - Bahamas
- iv) Cairn Energy India Pty Limited - Australia
- v) BHP Billiton Petroleum (International) Exploration Pty. Ltd. - Australia
- vi) Deep Energy LLC - USA
- vii) BG Exploration and Production India Ltd .- Caymans Islands

The response from the international companies cannot be termed as poor. Decisions of the bidders are guided by various factors like perception of individual company in the context of opportunities available in other parts of the world, business strategy, technical and financial capability etc.

(e) & (f) In order to strengthen Directorate General of Hydrocarbons(DGH), Government has authorized DGH on 26th June, 2012 to appoint H.R. Consultant, Exploration Consultant, legal and financial Consultants as per laid down procedures.