

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012
CLEARANCE UNDER NELP
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the number of oil and gas blocks pending for clearance under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP), company-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) the total amount of investment made by the Indian and foreign companies in these blocks;
- (c) whether clearance for some of the blocks given earlier were withdrawn subsequently; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House,

A Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 179 asked by Shri P.Viswanathan to be answered on 23.08.2012 regarding clearance under NELP.

(a). Presently, 52 blocks awarded under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding are pending for clearance by different organizations such as Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and State Governments.

Operator -wise breakup of the 52 blocks is as under:

| Sr. No. | Operator | No. of NELP Blocks Awaiting Clearances |
|---------|----------|---|
|---------|----------|---|

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1 | Oil and Natural gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) | 22 |
| 2 | Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) | 15 |
| 3 | BHP Billiton | 5 |
| 4 | Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. (CEIL) | 3 |
| 5 | Santos International | 2 |
| 6 | British Gas Exploration and Production India Ltd. (BGEPIIL) | 1 |
| 7 | BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd. | 1 |
| 8 | Focus Energy Ltd. | 1 |
| 9 | ENI | 1 |
| 10 | Jubilant Oil & Gas Pvt. Ltd. | 1 |

Total 52

Out of 52 blocks, clearances are pending in respect of 43 blocks from MOD due to defence related issues, 3 blocks from MOEF due to environmental issues, 2 from MEA due to maritime boundary issues and 4 from State Governments(Nagaland and Gujarat).

(b). The total investment made by Indian and foreign companies in the above 52 NELP blocks as on 31.03.2012 is about US \$ 12.4 Billion for exploration and development activities.

(c) and (d). In -principle clearances for larger areas from which these blocks are carved out are always obtained from the concerned Ministries/Departments prior to offering of the exploration blocks under the bidding rounds of NELP. However, various agencies such as MoD, MoEF, and concerned State Governments have subsequently asked for additional clearances to be obtained by the

Contractors in the above 52 affected blocks for commencing/resuming/continuing exploration and production activities.