

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2435
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large part of the sedimentary basins of the country is yet to be explored for prospective oil and natural gas reserves therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with such onshore and offshore basins identified for exploration;
- (c) the success achieved in the field of exploration of oil and gas with the involvement of private participants;and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to move price formation towards a competitive market structure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAGA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Out of the total sedimentary area of about 3.14 Million Sq. Km for 26 basins in India, so far about 2.23 Million Sq Km (about 71%) has been awarded for exploration under Nomination regime, Pre-NELP and NELP (New exploration Licensing Policy) bidding rounds. The remaining sedimentary area of about 0.91 Million Sq. Km is either partially explored or unexplored. The basin-wise details of such area are as under:

Onland Basins (16) Ganga Valley, Vindhya, Himalayan Foreland, Satpura-South Rewa-Damodar, Decan Syncline, Pranhita-Godavari, Kutch, Saurashtra, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt, Karewa, Spiti-Zaskar, Narmada, Bhima-Kaladgi, Cuddapha, Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Offshore Basins (2) Kerla-Konkan, Andaman

- (c) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, so far 282 exploration blocks have been awarded through Pre-NELP and NELP bidding rounds, of which 135 blocks have been awarded to Private and Foreign Companies. The following are the achievements by Private/Foreign Companies:

- (i) A total of 110 hydrocarbon discoveries (52 oil and 58 gas) have been made so far in 27 blocks.
- (ii) In-Place Reserves Accretion to the tune of 1023 Million Metric Tonnes (oil and oil equivalent of gas) have been realized as on 01.04.2012.
- (iii) Current oil and gas production by Private/Foreign Companies are about 1,86,000 bbl/day and 27.8 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters per day (MMSCMD) respectively.
- (iv) An investment of about US\$ 20.5 Billion has been incurred by the Private/Foreign companies for exploration and development activities.
- (d) As per the provisions of the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime, market price of crude oil is benchmarked to international crude price. However, in respect of natural gas, the Contractors shall endeavour to sell all Natural Gas produced and saved from the Contract Area at Arms-Length prices to the benefit of parties to the Contract. The Government as per the provisions of NELP Contracts shall approve the formula or basis on which Natural Gas prices shall be determined.