

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:60

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

OIL AND GAS PROJECTS

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

- (a) whether differences between his Ministry and Ministry of Defence are holding up various oil and gas blocks exploration projects in Krishna-Godavari, Mahanandi basins and other off-shore areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of projects affected or delayed as a result thereof and the reasons therefor along with the amount of investment involved in the aforesaid projects;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Defence to resolve the differences;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof along with the number of blocks allotted so far in consultation with the Ministry of Defence; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues at the earliest?

**Answer**

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

(a) Ministry of Defence (MoD) had placed restrictions on exploration and development activities in respect of 39 exploration blocks in offshore areas including Krishna-Godavari and Mahanadi basins, subsequent to the grant of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL). These blocks were awarded to different companies under various bidding rounds of Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) As on 31.03.2012 an investment to the tune of US\$ 13.28 Billion has been made by the Contractor(s) for carrying out exploration and development activities in 39 affected blocks. MoD had placed restrictions on account of strategic and security related considerations. The area-wise details of the affected blocks are as under:

Basin Name	Location	No. of Blocks Affected
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Krishna-Godavari	Eastern Offshore	22
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Mahanadi-	North-East Coast	Eastern Offshore	9
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Cauvery	Eastern Offshore	3
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Pranhita- Godavari	Eastern Offshore	2
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Gujarat-Saurashtra	Western Offshore	2
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Andaman      Andaman Offshore    1

Total                      39

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) The matter has been taken up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) with Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other concerned agencies at various levels. Further, the same was discussed by the Cabinet Committee on Investments (CCI) in its meeting held on 30.01.2013. The CCI has directed Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor to further discuss the issue with MoP&NG and MoD and apprise progress to CCI in a month's time. As per the directives of CCI, meetings are being held to resolve the issue.