

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2124
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
CLEARANCE TO OFFSHORE DRILLING COMPANIES
Natarajan Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had given environmental clearance to the private offshore drilling companies by ex-post-facto procedure in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of names of private companies and the reasons for giving such ex-post-facto clearance;
- (c) whether a number of offshore drilling companies have started drilling without obtaining prior environmental clearances;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) & (b) The offshore drilling activities for oil and gas require prior environmental clearance as per the procedure laid down in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. As per the said notification, there is no provision for ex-post-facto clearance.
- (c) No such cases have been reported to the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the EIA Notification, 2006.
- (d) & (e) In view of the reply given above to part (c), does not arise.