

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3154
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013
DELAY IN CLEARANCE OF OIL BLOCKS
Adhi Sankar Shri ;Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

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

- (a) whether some oil and gas blocks in the country are awaiting clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 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).

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
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Total	39
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In addition to above, the exploration activities have been restricted /stopped by the State Governments in other 10 blocks awarded, in onland areas:

State	No. of NELP Blocks Affected	Reasons
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Nagaland	3	Nagaland Government has either stopped or not allowed to commence exploration activities in these blocks.
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Assam	4	Environmental Clearance/Forest Clearance not granted by MoEF/ Government of Assam
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Manipur	2	Environmental Clearance /Forest Clearance not granted by MoEF/ Government of Manipur
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Maharashtra	1	Environmental Clearance/ Forest Clearance not granted by MoEF/ Government of Maharashtra
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Total	10	
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(c) The matter had 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.