

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4295
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prohibited exploration in certain oil and gas blocks in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, block-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAAGA 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 |
|------------|----------|------------------------|
|------------|----------|------------------------|

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----|
| Krishna-Godavari | Eastern Offshore | 22 |
|------------------|------------------|----|

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mahanadi- | North-East Coast Eastern Offshore | 9 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|

| | | |
|---------|------------------|---|
| Cauvery | Eastern Offshore | 3 |
|---------|------------------|---|

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| Pranhita- | Godavari Eastern Offshore | 2 |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Gujarat-Saurashtra | Western Offshore | 2 |
|--------------------|------------------|---|

| | | |
|---------|------------------|---|
| Andaman | Andaman Offshore | 1 |
|---------|------------------|---|

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| Total | | 39 |
|-------|--|----|

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 |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| 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 |
|---------|---|--|

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Maharashtra | 1 | Environmental Clearance/ Forest Clearance not granted by MoEF/ Government of Maharashtra |
|-------------|---|--|

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Total | 10 | |
|-------|----|--|