

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3406  
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013  
REGULATOR FOR OIL AND GAS FIELDS  
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether a panel of Ministers has asked the Government to create an independent regulator for the oil and gas fields and also to take over critical functions of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the panel of Ministers has made several other recommendations to the Government regarding the oil and gas sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring transparency in awarding exploration contracts in oil and gas fields? ANSWER

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): GoM has approved the following. The Upstream regulation consists of three main aspects, viz., i) Environmental Regulation, ii) Safety Regulation and iii) Reservoir Management. Environment related issues are looked after by the Ministry of Environment & Forests under statutory provisions for all the sectors of industry in the country. Safety aspects are being looked after by two agencies, namely, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) which regulates offshore safety operation and the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), which regulates onland safety aspect. As both the aspects of safety and environmental protection requiring independent regulation are already being looked after by statutory regulators, there may not be any need to duplicating these structures afresh.