

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2847
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION BY FOREIGN COMPANY
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any foreign company engaged in oil and gas exploration has showed its inability to carry out exploration operations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), to c): The Ministry of Defence (MoD) owing to security concerns, had put certain conditions for E&P activities in respect of 73 blocks, subsequent to the grant of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL), awarded in offshore areas under New Exploration Policy (NELP). MoD and MoPNG after discussions and deliberations, evolved a workable solution which was approved by the CCI. Out of the 73 blocks, clearances have been accorded to 64 blocks. Some blocks have been granted conditional clearances.

Following foreign companies/operators have proposed for discontinuation of the exploration activities in 13 offshore block due to either total prohibition of exploration activities or conditional clearances accorded by MoD in these blocks:

BHP Billiton : 9 blocks

Santos : 2 blocks

British Petroleum : 1 block

British Gas Exploration and Production India Ltd. : 1 block