

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009
ALLOCATION OF BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether out of 70 blocks offered in the 8th round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) only 36 attracted bids with ONGC and partners bidding for a maximum 25;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether pricing policies and changes in the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) are responsible for this poor response; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard.

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) & (b) Out of 70 blocks offered under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 36 blocks. For these 36 blocks, 76 bids were received from 45 companies including 25 bids from Oil and Natural Corporation Ltd(ONGC) and its Consortium partners. National Oil Companies(NOCs) and private companies bid on a level playing field on transparent Bid Evaluation Criteria(BEC).
- (c). No, Madam.
- (d). Does not arise in view of (c) above.