

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2490  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2009  
EXPLORATION IN DEEP WATER BLOCKS  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether operators in deep water blocks have requested the Union Government for drilling moratorium for a period of three years;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Under the production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, three operators, namely, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Reliance Industries Limited and ENI have requested for drilling moratorium in deep water blocks for a period of three years w.e.f. 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2010.

(b) & (c) The request has been made by them on account of worldwide shortage of deep water drilling rigs. The matter is under consideration of the Government.