

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3468
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
OIL AND GAS BLOCKS ALLOTTED TO PRIVATE COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sites where oil and gas have been explored by public sector agencies have been allotted to private companies for exploration of gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount of funds spent by the Government on the said exploration during the last three years; and
- (d) the reasons for allotting these sites to private agencies?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The blocks where oil & gas have been explored by Public Sector agencies are periodically relinquished and new blocks are carved out for offering to Private Companies /Joint Ventures as well as National/State Oil Companies under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime through International Competitive bidding for exploration.

The following blocks have been carved out from the areas relinquished by the Public Sector companies and offered under NELP-VIII:-

- (i) VN-ONN-2009/1
- (ii) VN-ONN-2009/2
- (iii) VN-ONN-2009/3
- (iv) HF-ONN-2009/1
- (v) CB-ONN-2009/1
- (vi) CB-ONN-2009/2
- (vii) CB-ONN-2009/3
- (viii) CB-ONN-2009/4

(c) Expenditure is incurred by the Company (s) to whom oil and gas blocks are awarded for exploration. No funds have been spent by the Government for the exploration of oil and gas.

(d) NELP rounds blocks are offered through international competitive bidding system on the basis of transparent and quantifiable Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) indicated in Notice Inviting Offers (NIO) wherein both public sector companies and private companies participate. This has been done with a view to attract investment in exploration of oil and gas. The blocks are awarded to successful bidders based on BEC.