

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1651

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014

EXPLORATION LICENCING POLICY

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

- (a) the salient features and the details of implementation of the New Exploration Licensing Policy;
- (b) the number of bids invited for oil and gas hydrocarbon blocks and awarded for exploration by the Government to various public/private sector companies during each of the last three years and the current year, project/company/State-wise including Rajasthan
- (c) the details of natural gas and oil deposits/blocks discovered in the country during the said period along with the proposed investment for the purpose, companies /State-wise;
- (d) the details of production of natural gas and petroleum products from such oil blocks by public/private companies during the said period, oil block-wise; and
- (e) the measures being taken to increase the production level of natural gas and crude oil in such blocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHRAMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was introduced by the Government in 1997 and operationalized in 1999. The salient features of NELP are given in Notification No. O.19018/22/95-ONG.DO. VI dated 10.02.1999 which is at Annexure-I

So far, there have been nine rounds of NELP bidding under which a total of 360 exploration blocks were offered in onland and offshore areas of which 254 exploration blocks were awarded to National Oil Companies, Private and Foreign Companies.

(b): During the last three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) and the current year (2014-15, till date), the ninth round of NELP bidding took place. The NELP-IX round was launched on 15.10.2010 and the bid receiving date was till 28.03.2011. Under this round, 34 exploration blocks were offered for bidding and 74 bids were received for 33 blocks. A total of 19 blocks (4 in Western Offshore, 2 in Assam, 2 in Madhya Pradesh, 1 in Tripura, 1 in Rajasthan and 9 in Gujarat) have been awarded to various Public Sector, Private/Foreign Companies. The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) of the awarded blocks were signed in the years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The details of the awarded blocks are given in Annexure-II.

(c): Under the PSC regime, during the said period 37 hydrocarbon discoveries, comprising of 16 oil and 21 gas discoveries, have been made. Companies and State wise details are at Annexure-III.

Out of the 37 discoveries, the Declaration of Commerciality has been done for one oil discovery, namely, Nagayalanka-SE-1 in the block KG-ONN-2003/1, located in Andhra Pradesh, operated by M/s Cairn India Limited in which an investment of US\$ 677.14 Million as Capital Expenditure and US\$ 227 Million as Operating Expenditure is envisaged

(d): The oil and gas discoveries made under the PSC regime during the last three years and the current year are under various stages of evaluation/ appraisal / development by the Operators and commercial production is yet to commence.

(e): Does not arise in view of d above.