

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1057

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

NEW EXPLORATION AND LICENSING POLICY

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

- (a) whether in some of the closed/ exhausted oil wells/gas blocks including Mumbai High, the production/ redevelopment plan could not be started as per the prescribed time schedule;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not starting the crude oil and gas production in such blocks resulting financial loss to the exchequer in view of the above, oil/gas fields/company-wise including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited;
- (c) the details of oil and gas blocks awarded under the Ninth round of New` Exploration and Licensing Policy, company/ block-wise;
- (d) the details of the such oil and gas blocks which have been delayed due to clearance by the various Ministries;
- (c) the details of sedimentary basins offered through the New Exploration Licensing Policy to the private/ foreign companies and the investment made by them along with the reasons of such sedimentary basins of oil and gas remains under explored, company/basin-wise; and
- (f) the efforts made by the Government to start production of oil and gas abroad to meet the domestic requirement of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Revival of sick oil/ gas wells is a continuous process and the contractors undertake several measures on regular basis to revive the sick wells to increase oil and gas production. The revival process includes measures such as periodical well intervention through work-over jobs, well stimulation, installation of suitable artificial lift systems and side-tracking of wells etc. Sick wells are also abandoned by the Contractors either on completion of their economic life or due to fact that they could not be economically revived.

Revival of sick wells of fields of ONGC & OIL under nomination regime is monitored on continuous basis by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

(c) & (d) Under NELP-IX round, a total of 19 blocks have been awarded after clearances from Ministries/ Dcpartments concerned. Post aw-ard of blocks, exploration activities could not commence by the contractors in six exploration blocks due to delay in grant of Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) by the State Governments. The details of the awarded blocks under NELP-IX round and their current status arc placed at Annexure-I.

(e) Under nine NELP Bidding rounds, 254 blocks in 19 sedimentary basins have been awarded for exploration and investment. An investment of about US \$23.67 billion have been made by contractors working under PSC Regime. Sedimentary basin-wise number of blocks and investment made upto 31.12.2014 is given in Annexure-II

During NELP rounds (I-IX), exploration blocks in seven Category-IV Indian sedimentary basins viz. Karewa, Spiti-Zanskar, Narmada, Bhima-Kaladgi, Cuddapah, Bastar and Chattisgarh could not be carved out for hydrocarbon exploration because of non-availability of adequate G&G (Geology & Geophysics) data set and non-identification of the prospective areas. In order to explore poorly explorcd/unexplored sedimentary basins for active hydrocarbon exploration. Government of India has planned to acquire 2D seismic survey in un-appraised sedimentary areas including deep water areas.

(f) ONGC Videsh Limited is working globally for the energy security of India. ONGC Videsh has made a steady progress in acquiring oil and gas resources abroad over the last decade or so. ONGC Videsh has 36 assets in 17 countries and contributes to 14% of oil and 12% of oil and natural gas production of India respectively.