

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS IN ANDAMAN SEA
BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

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- (a) whether the Government have allowed several foreign firms to explore oil and gas in the Andaman Sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the safety aspects in the Andaman Sea?

Answer

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (c):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 76.
CHARAN DAS MAHANT AND SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2003 REGARDING
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS IN ANDAMAN SEA

(a) & (b):-To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, the Government has, under the fourth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV), invited bids for award of twenty four exploration blocks through International Competitive Bidding. Eleven of these blocks are onland, one in shallow water offshore and twelve in deep water area including two blocks in Andaman Sea. The details of the two Andaman blocks are given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the block	Area (approx.)
1.	AN-DWN-2002/1	10,990 sq.km.
2.	AN-DWN-2002/2	12,495 sq.km.

(c) All safety/security concerns are taken care of while signing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs).