

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1393
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
OFFERING OF BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION UNDER NELP- VI
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to impose strict technical and bid evaluation criteria in the sixth round of NELP-VI;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the number of blocks to be offered for exploration under NELP-VI;
- (d) whether the indigenous production of petroleum products still remain static in spite of announcement of NELP-VI; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b):- Government has modified the bid evaluation criteria to evaluate the technical capability of the bidders for considering the technical capability of the operator only. Weightage for technical capability has been increased as compared to the earlier rounds. The salient features for qualifying criteria are as under:-

The designated operator in a block would be required to obtain a non-zero score in the technical capability parameters on an aggregate basis.

The bidders would be required to confirm commitment to the mandatory work programme given against the block.

Bidder must submit a certificate from the company's statutory auditor(s) stating that the company has a networth equal to or more than its minimum work programme commitment for Exploration Phase-I.

(c) A total of 55 blocks have been offered for exploration under NELP-VI round of bidding. Out of these blocks, 24 are in deepwater, 6 in shallow water & 25 in onland areas.

(d) & (e):-The exploration period for any block is 7-8 years. The quantum of oil and gas produced depends on discoveries in the exploration blocks which will help to increase production/replenish the decline in present production levels. Some very significant discoveries have already been made in some of these blocks.