

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2098  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006  
EXPLORATION BY PUBLIC SECTOR OIL COMPANIES  
Oram Shri Jual;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) whether the public sector oil companies have not performed satisfactorily in exploration during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to lay emphasis on exploration activities; and
- (d) if so, the strategies being chalked out in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Mainly, two oil PSUs namely Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are engaged in exploration and production activities in oil and gas in the country. In last one year, they have implemented exploration programmes and ONGC and OIL have respectively made four and three hydrocarbon discoveries in the year 2004 -2005. Exploration of oil and gas involves risk and outcome of exploration cannot be predicted with certainty and hence no uniform benchmark available to gauge the exploration performance of an oil and gas company.

(c) & (d) The Government has laid great emphasis to enhance exploration activities in the country and has formulated New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which provides for attractive fiscal and contract terms to attract companies in area of exploration. The Government has so far signed 110 Production Sharing Contracts under first five rounds of NELP. NELP-VI was launched on 23rd February, 2006 offering largest ever area and number of blocks under NELP rounds.