

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
ALLOTMENT OF OIL BLOCKS UNDER NELP
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government has allotted new oil blocks under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP);
- (b) if so, the number of the blocks allotted so far and the estimated oil reserves found therein;
- (c) whether any time limit was set for the commencement of production from them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the blocks from which production has started?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.262 BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN AND DR. CHINTA MOHAN TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2006 REGARDING 'ALLOTMENT OF OIL BLOCKS UNDER NELP.'

(a) & (b):- Yes Sir, the Government has so far allotted 110 blocks and signed Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with Indian companies - both Public Sector Undertakings and Private companies, as well as foreign companies under five rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

These blocks being exploration blocks, reserve estimates can be made only after assessment of oil and gas is done through exploration efforts. As a result of ongoing exploration efforts in these blocks 30 discoveries have already been made. The in place reserves from 16 discoveries for which reserves have been assessed is estimated at 510 Million Metric Tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas. Reserve estimation from discoveries is an ongoing exercise and such reserves are normally estimated every year.

(c) & (d):- A period of up to 8 years has been provided for exploration under these contracts. If any discovery of hydrocarbon is made, the respective PSCs provide the time frame for the announcement of a discovery, its appraisal, declaration of commerciality and submission and approval of development plan by the Management Committee. The Management Committee also approves the period for implementation of development plans and commencement of commercial production.

From PSCs signed for NELP under the first five rounds, commercial production of gas has commenced in one block CB-ONN-2000/2 (NELP-II round block) from Bheema and North Surat (NS) fields in Gujarat.