

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2029  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006  
AUCTION OF OIL AND GAS FIELDS  
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to auction oil and gas fields to domestic and multi-national companies;
- (b) if so, the procedure to be followed by the Government for the auction of oil/gas fields;
- (c) whether the procedure for auction ensure level playing field for domestic companies to compete with their international counterpart;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for not ensuring level playing field for domestic companies?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, on 23rd February, 2006, has offered 55 blocks -24 deepwater, 6 shallow water and 25 onshore blocks under the sixth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI).
- (b) NELP provides for offering of blocks through International Competitive Bidding , wherein domestic and foreign companies can participate. The bid closing date for NELP-VI is 15th September, 2006.
- (c) & (d):- The NELP provides a level playing field for both domestic and foreign companies. The fiscal and contractual terms and conditions under NELP are the same for Indian and foreign companies. Evaluation of bids is carried out by adopting a transparent and quantitative bid evaluation criteria, which has been made public in the Notice Inviting Offers for NELP-VI.
- (e) Question does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.