

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1974  
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2006  
LICENSES TO PRIVATE COMPANIES  
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has issued licenses to private companies for exploration, setting up refineries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the private companies to whom licenses have been issued for retail distributor-ship of petroleum products, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery is to be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on the promoter's assessment of its viability.

Government has issued 50 Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) to the following Private Companies and their consortium for exploration of oil & gas.

Name of the private companies to whom these licenses are issued are given as under:

1. RIL
2. Cairn Energy
3. HOEC
4. Focus Energy (Phoenix Overseas Ltd.)
5. OAO Gazprom
6. Canoro Resources Ltd.
7. Jubilant Enpro Pvt. Ltd.
8. Hardy Exploration & Production India Ltd.
9. Geo Global Resources
10. Niko Resources Ltd.
11. ENI
12. Birkbeck Investment Ltd.
13. Prize Petroleum
14. Geo Petrol International

(c) Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to three private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL).