

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1468
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
GAS IN KRISHNA AND GODAVARI BASINS
Jogaiah Shri Chegondi Venkata Hariram

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

(a) whether exploration and marketing of natural gas in Krishna and Godavari Basins was given to a private company giving preference in allotting potential sites over State owned ONGC; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such allotment and on what conditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) and (b) To boost exploration activity both onland and offshore, including deepwater, the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was formulated by the Government of India in 1997-98. The policy provides a level playing field in which all companies, including PSUs, compete on equal terms for the award of exploration acreages. At present, there are 14 blocks under operation in the Krishna and Godavari basins; of these, 7 blocks are in deepwater and 7 in shallow water. Under NELP rounds of bidding so far, 10 blocks have been awarded to private companies / joint ventures and 4 to National oil companies in accordance with the conditions laid down therein.