

blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) would apply equally to all onland areas of the country including North East region. Of the 48 blocks offered under NELP, 1999, bids were received for 27 blocks.

(c) and (d) One onland exploration block namely ARP-ONN-97/ 1 in Arunachal Pradesh with an area of 300 sq. km. was offered in the first offer of blocks under NELP, as against the total area of 118450 sq. km. for the 10 onland blocks. Onland areas can be offered under NELP after concurrence to the terms of NELP is received from the respective State Government.

FDI proposals submitted for oil based Industries in Assam

855. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals submitted/operationalised for setting up Crude Oil/Natural gas based industries and oil/gas exploration activities under NELP in Assam; and

(b) if such proposals had been mooted in the State, what are actionable blue print initiated by Government to maintain the equilibrium in the regional disparities under reform measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As the State Government of Assam has not given its concurrence to the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), no block from the State could be offered for exploration of oil and gas under NELP.