

and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) 2 onland exploration blocks in the State of West Bengal, one in North and the other in the Southern part, and 3 offshore exploration blocks located in the North-East Coast region of Bay of Bengal have been put on offer under the New Exploration Licensing Policy. The last date for submission of bids is 18.5.99.

In addition, 1 CBM exploration blocks in the North Raniganj region of the State has been approved for grant of PEL by the State Government.

रसोई गैस के मूल्य के संबंध में निर्णय

1049. श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: क्या पेट्रोलिएम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रसोई गैस के दाम बढ़ाने से समूचे देश की गृहणियों की परेशानी और बढ़ गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार रसोई गैस के दाम घटाने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलिएम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) से (घ) वर्ष 1999-2000 के केन्द्रीय बजट में शुल्कों के विषय में किए गए संशोधन के परिणामस्वरूप एल पी जी (डिब्बा बंद घरेलू) के मूल्य में कमी कर दी गई है और यह संशोधन 27/28 फरवरी, 1999 की मध्यरात्रि से प्रभावी है।

Private Companies in Oil Exploration

1050. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private Indian and Foreign companies that offered new oil exploration; and

(b) the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the NELP, 48 exploration blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms that provide a level playing field to investors;

The last date for submission of bids is 18th May, 1999.

(b) The terms and conditions of NELP are as under:

- (i) The successful bidder would be required to enter into a Production Sharing Contract (PSC), which will be Negotiated based on the model Production Sharing Contract.
- (ii) The possibility of the seismic option in the first phase of the exploration period.
- (iii) There will be no minimum expenditure commitment during the exploration period.
- (iv) No signature, discovery or production bonus.
- (v) No mandatory state participation.
- (vi) No carried interest by National Oil Companies.
- (vii) Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
- (viii) No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
- (ix) Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
- (x) Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
- (xi) Sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor & is biddable.
- (xii) Royalty for onland is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For