

(Figures in Crore Rs.)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
<b>Upstream Oil Companies</b>			
ONGC	16702	16126	16768
OIL	1789	2162	2611
<b>OIL Marketing Companies</b>			
IOC	6963	2950	10221
HPC	1135	575	1301
BPC	1581	736	1538

**Exploration by energy firms**

2539. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has granted additional time to energy firms for exploring oil and gas in deep water blocks;

(b) if so, whether the move will benefit energy firms since they could not meet their contractual obligations due to global shortage of deep water rigs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Government has approved a proposal for granting drilling moratorium for 3 years starting 1st January, 2008 to 31st December, 2010 to thirty (30) deepwater blocks under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime signed upto New Exploration & Licensing Policy (NELP) – V, where drilling commitments (except development drilling) remained unfulfilled as on 1st January, 2009.

The drilling moratorium was granted to enable the operators to fulfill the exploratory and appraisal drilling commitments which could not be completed due to global shortages of deepwater drilling rigs during the aforesaid period.

The company-wise number of blocks where Drilling moratorium was granted are as under.

Operator	No. of blocks granted drilling moratorium
ONGC	16
RIL	13
ENI	1

**Investment by insurance companies in bonds issued by OVL**

2540. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to secure more funds for overseas oil and gas acquisition, the Ministry has requested the Finance Ministry to allow insurance companies to invest their surplus funds in bonds issued by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL);

(b) if so, the main contents of the proposal and to what extent the proposal has been considered by the Finance Ministry ; and

(c) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Uniform pricing of Petroleum products**

2541. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in pricing of petroleum products, taxes and duties are levied at different levels and points;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to evolve a system of uniform selling prices of petroleum products at one point with taxes and duties to different States/bodies to be paid out by the same one point agency; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?