

(b) by when the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board will decide marketing margin of natural gas as due to lack of any regulation in this regard, customers are paying unethical price on natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) References were made by the Department of Fertilizers seeking clarification on the marketing margin being charged by Reliance Industries Limited on the sale of natural gas to the fertilizers industry. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas referred the issue of marketing margin applicable on sale of natural gas by any marketer to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under section 11(j) of PNGRB Act, 2006 on 26.12.2011. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has submitted its recommendations to the Ministry.

**Auctioning of blocks under ninth round of NELP**

554. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) the details of the blocks auctioned in the ninth round of auctions under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) the details of total deep-water blocks, shallow water blocks and on-shore blocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign companies did not win any bids in the auction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to attract foreign investment in the oil and gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A total of 34 exploration blocks were offered by Government under the ninth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding. Bids were received for 33 blocks. So far, 19 blocks have been awarded after obtaining clearances from various agencies. The Company-wise and location-wise details of the awarded blocks are as under:

Sl. No.	Operator	Offshore	Onland	Total
1	ONGC	2 (Western offshore)	3 (Gujarat)	5
2	OIL	1 (Western Offshore)	2 (Assam)	3
3	GAIL	-	1 (Gujarat)	1
4	Bharat Petro Resources Ltd	-	1 (Gujarat)	1
5	British Gas Exploration & Production (India) Ltd.	1 (Western Offshore)	-	1
6	Prize Petroleum	-	1 (Tripura)	1
7	Focus Energy Ltd.	-	1 (Rajasthan)	1
8	Deep Energy, LLC	-	1 (Gujarat) and 2 (Madhya Pradesh)	3
9	Pratibha Oil and Natural Gas Pvt. Ltd.		1 (Gujarat)	1
10	Pan India Consultants	-	1 (Gujarat)	1
11	Sankalp Oil and Natural Resources Ltd.		1 (Gujarat)	1
TOTAL		4	15	19

(b) The number of the blocks offered and awarded under NELP – IX in deepwater, shallow water and onland areas are as under:

Block Type	No. of Blocks offered	No. of Blocks awarded
Deepwater	8	1
Shallow Water	7	3
Onland	19	15
TOTAL	34	19

(c) and (d) No Sir. Under NELP -IX bidding round, total seven (7) foreign companies submitted bids and 6 blocks have been awarded to 5 foreign companies.

(e) The Government of India (GoI) introduced New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1997 to supplement the efforts of the National Oil Companies (NOCs) in exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country as well as to attract the new technologies and investments in the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector from Private/Foreign Companies. Under NELP, exploration blocks are awarded through International Competitive Bidding with equal terms and conditions for Private/Foreign and National Oil Companies (NOCs). Under the NELP, up to 100% participation by Foreign Companies is allowed. So far, out of 254 exploration blocks awarded under 9 rounds of NELP biddings, Foreign Companies have been awarded 40 exploration blocks as Operators. As on 30.09.2012, a cumulative investment of about US\$ 2.1 Billion has been incurred by the Foreign Companies for exploration and development activities in the blocks awarded under NELP.

#### **Rise in prices of petroleum products**

555. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) the details of increase in price of diesel, petrol, kerosene and LPG during September, October and November, 2012, item-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in price of petroleum products;

(c) whether the recent price-rise of petroleum products which was a record hike would lead to rise in price of essential commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government would roll back the price-rise of petroleum products, particularly diesel and LPG in view of its direct adverse effect on farmers and common people;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The details of increase in the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic Subsidized LPG at Delhi since 1.9.2012 are given below: