

(c) and (d) The State Government of Gujarat has represented before the Union Government. The Government of Gujarat had also filed a Special Civil Application No.13943 of 2011 before the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat with a prayer to direct ONGC to pay the royalty on crude oil at the pre-discount price from April, 2008 instead of on post discount price. The Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat *vide* its order dated 30.11.2013 has ordered that the royalty on crude oil is to be paid on pre-discount price and directed ONGC to make the payment towards the amount of shortfall of royalty for the period April, 2008 till date within a period of two months from the date of the order. Aggrieved by the order, ONGC has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Pending further orders, the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 13.02.2014, stayed the operation of the impugned judgment subject to the condition that ONGC pays royalty to State of Gujarat on pre-discount price of crude oil *w.e.f.* 1st February, 2014 onwards. Accordingly, ONGC has started paying royalty on pre-discount price *w.e.f.* 1st February, 2014.

#### **Storage of crude oil in Indian caverns by Kuwait and Abu Dhabi**

3047. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil-rich countries Kuwait and Abu Dhabi are in talks with India to store about 2 million tonnes of crude oil in Indian caverns, which the country can use during emergencies such as supply constraint due to geo-political turmoil in the producing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Oil companies (NOCs) of UAE and Kuwait, namely, ADNOC and KPC have expressed their interest in this regard. Bilateral Working Groups have been formed to discuss the subject further.

#### **PSCs signed under NELP**

3048. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of blocks for which production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) has been signed under Near Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) until 2009;

(b) how many of these are still under exploration or production and how many have been surrendered so far;