

(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;

(c) the details of discoveries in the surrendered blocks and the steps Government proposes to take to produce from them; and

(d) whether there is any move to re-offer the surrendered blocks and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Till the year 2009, seven New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds (NELP-I to NELP-VII) were completed and the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 203 exploration blocks were signed.

(b) Out of these, 111 blocks have been relinquished by the Contractors and 92 blocks are currently operational. Commercial oil/gas production has commenced from 11 discoveries in 5 NELP blocks.

(c) Out of the 111 relinquished blocks, 6 oil discoveries (3 in Eastern Offshore & 3 in Gujarat) and 8 gas discoveries (1 in each Andaman-Nicobar and Tamil Nadu, and 6 in Eastern Offshore) were made in 10 relinquished blocks, where the discoveries were not found to be commercially viable for production.

(d) The relinquished areas are usually considered for re-offer under future bidding rounds subject to availability of statutory clearances.

#### **Increasing quota of kerosene oil for Odisha**

3049. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of subsidised kerosene oil being allotted to different States in the country;

(b) whether Government would consider to increase kerosene oil quota for the State of Odisha; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) State/UT-wise details of PDS Kerosene allocated to the States/UTs for year 2013-14 and current year up to 2nd quarter (July to September) so far are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government has made the kerosene allocation to States/UTs for year 2013-14 after rationalization. As per norms adopted by the Government for rationalization of allocation of PDS kerosene, PDS kerosene quota of Odisha was not reduced except