

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3900
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd March, 2023

Allotment of Exploration Licence

3900. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has called for any bid to allot Exploration Licence under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) 2016;
- b) if so, the details of bids called since HELP 2016 Policy was announced;
- c) the details of the blocks allotted so far, State-wise, area and Indian-bidder/International-bidder-wise; and
- d) the details of the under production blocks?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) & (b) Government of India introduced the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) on 30th March 2016 as a part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and the first OALP Bid Round was launched in January 2018. Till date, 7 OALP Bid Rounds have been conducted wherein 134 blocks have been awarded with total acreage of 2,07,692 Sq Km through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). The details of bids called since HELP, 2016 are annexed as **Annexure I**.

(c) The details of allotted blocks, State-wise, area and Indian-bidder/International-bidder-wise are annexed as **Annexure II**.

(d) Till date, a total of 5 discoveries (3 Oil & 2 Gas discoveries) have been notified in 4 OALP blocks out of which 2 discoveries are currently under test production in following blocks:

S. No.	State	Block	Nature of hydrocarbon	Operator
1.	Gujarat	CB-ONHP-2017/2	Natural Gas & Condensate	Vedanta
2.	Rajasthan	RJ-ONHP-2017/1	Crude Oil	Vedanta

Annexure-I
(reference part (a) & (b) of reply of LS USQ 3900)

Bids called since HELP 2016

OALP Bid Round	Launch Date	Blocks on offer	Area on offer (sq.km.)	Number of participants	No. of bids received	Area awarded (sq.km.)
OALP-I	19-01-2018	55	59,283	9	110	59,283
OALP-II	07-01-2019	14	29,233	8	33	29,233
OALP-III	10-02-2019	23	31,722	5	42	29,765
OALP-IV	27-08-2019	7	18,510	2	8	18,510
OALP-V	14-01-2020	11	19,789	3	12	19,789
OALP-VI	06-08-2021	21	35,346	3	24	35,346
OALP-VII	16-12-2021	8	15,766	4	10	15,766
Total		139	209,649		239	207,692

Annexure-II
(reference part (c) of reply of LS USQ 3900)

State wise, area wise details of awarded blocks

S. No.	State / Area	No. of Blocks awarded	Acreage awarded, Sq. km
1.	OFFSHORE	31	87,306
2.	Gujarat	24	16,471
3.	Assam	22	19,112
4.	Rajasthan	15	20,137
5.	Tripura	8	1,777
6.	Andhra Pradesh	6	9,123
7.	Madhya Pradesh	6	15,632
8.	Odisha	5	14,194
9.	Tamil Nadu	4	2,980
10.	West Bengal	4	11,455
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1,927
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2,067
13.	Bihar	1	360
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1	666
15.	Maharashtra	1	1,543
16.	Nagaland	1	2,574
17.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	249
18.	Mizoram	-	3
19.	Puducherry	-	114
20.	TOTAL	134	207,692

Note: Blocks falling in more than one state / jurisdiction have been indicated against State / jurisdiction having the largest area under its jurisdiction.

Indian Bidder/ International Bidder wise details of awarded blocks

S. No.	Operator	No. of Blocks awarded	Acreage awarded, Sq. Km
1.	ONGC Limited	45	89,875
2.	Vedanta Limited	51	58,585
3.	Oil India Limited	29	54,224
4.	SunPetro	3	2,069
5.	RIL-BP*	1	1,514
6.	GAIL	2	699
7.	IOCL	1	474
8.	BPRL	1	174
9.	HOEC	1	79
10.	TOTAL	134	207,692

* One OALP block where UK-based E& P company *British Petroleum Company plc* is a joint operator with RIL

All blocks awarded to PSUs or private companies working in India except one OALP block where UK-based E& P company *British Petroleum Company plc* is a joint operator with RIL.