

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2365
ANSWERED ON- 16/12/2024

OIL WELLS IN PROTECTED AGRICULTURAL ZONE

2365. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- a) Whether Government has received any recent representation seeking expansion of Protected Agricultural Zone in the delta districts of Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Tiruchy & Pudukottai in addition to earlier notified districts in Tamil Nadu;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether Government has received any representations from Government of Tamil Nadu seeking to assess the ages of the old oil wells and close those illegally functioning oil wells in Protected Agricultural zone in delta districts of Tamil Nadu; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (d): The Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020 is a State legislation. This Act prohibits any new exploration, drilling and extraction of Oil and Natural Gas and other similar hydrocarbons from the Protected Agricultural Zone. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has not received any representation regarding expansion of this Protected Agricultural Zone. The Ministry has also not received any representation on assessment of the age profile of the old oil wells / closing of oil wells in Protected Agricultural zone in the delta districts of Tamil Nadu. No new Petroleum Exploration Licenses have been granted by the State Government in the protected zone since passage of the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020.
