

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2372
ANSWERED ON-16/12/2024

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION SECTOR

2372 SHRI BRIJ LAL:
DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:
SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to accelerate the pace of exploration activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the importance of Exploration and Production (E&P) sector in achieving energy self sufficiency and sustaining economic growth?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has taken various policy initiatives to accelerate the pace of exploration activities which *inter-alia* include:

- i. Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications under PSC regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries, 2014.
- ii. Discovered Small Field Policy, 2015.
- iii. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2016.
- iv. Policy for Extension of PSCs, 2016 and 2017.
- v. Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane, 2017.
- vi. Setting up of National Data Repository, 2017.
- vii. Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- viii. Policy framework for extension of PSCs for Discovered Fields and Exploration Blocks under Pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (Pre-NELP), 2016 and 2017.
- ix. Policy to Promote and Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas, 2018.
- x. Policy Framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Contracts and Nomination Fields, 2018.

- xi. Natural Gas Marketing Reforms, 2020.
- xii. Lower Royalty Rates, Zero Revenue Share (till Windfall Gain) and no drilling commitment in Phase-I in OALP Blocks under Category II and III basins to attract bidders.
- xiii. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades.
- xiv. Government is also spending about Rs.7500 Cr. for acquisition of seismic data in onland and offshore areas and drilling of stratigraphic wells to make quality data of Indian Sedimentary Basins available to bidders. Government has approved acquisition of additional 2D Seismic data of 20,000 LKM in onland and 30,000 LKM in offshore beyond Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India.

(c): As per the report of Energy Institute Statistical Review of World Energy, 2024, around 90% of India's primary energy comes from fossil fuels, with coal accounting for about 56.84%, oil and gas combined accounts for ~32.88% and remaining from other sources. This heavy reliance on fossil fuels underscores the importance of the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector in India's sustainable economic growth and achieving energy self sufficiency. Currently, about ~13% of oil and ~53% of gas are domestically produced by E&P companies. The Government has introduced various initiatives to boost E&P activities and to increase production of oil and gas as stated above.
