

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 773**  
ANSWERED ON-02/12/2024

**RISING IMPORT DEPENDENCE**

773. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's energy imports are projected to surge by 43.6 per cent in FY 2023, which would significantly impact the country's import bill;
- (b) if so, the details of measures being taken to ensure that the same remain under control;
- (c) the measures being taken to augment the domestic production capacities of the same;
- and
- (d) the proposed measures to be taken thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (d) There has been an increase of 27.7% in value of imports in Crude Oil & Gas in 2022-23. However, in volume terms, the increase was only 8.2%. Further, the import bill of Crude Oil & Gas in the country has reduced by 15.8% in FY 2023-24 over previous year. The details of import of Crude oil, Petroleum Products and Natural gas (quantity as well as value) during the last three years, are as under: -

Year	Import in the Oil & Gas Sector	
	In MMT	In Million US\$
2021-22	274.76	157803
2022-23	297.15	201557
2023-24 (P)	306.95	169704

Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

P: Provisional      MMT: Million Metric Tonnes

Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to reduce the dependency on crude oil which, *inter alia*, include demand substitution by promoting usage of natural gas as fuel/feedstock across the country towards increasing the share of natural gas in economy and moving towards gas based economy, promotion of renewable and alternate fuels like ethanol, second generation ethanol, compressed bio gas and biodiesel, refinery process improvements, promoting energy efficiency and conservation, efforts for increasing production of oil and natural gas through various policies initiatives, etc. The Government has been promoting blending of ethanol in petrol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. Blending of Petrol has reached approximately 14.6% during Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2023-24 and resulted in approximately forex savings of Rs. 1.09 Lakh Crores from ESY 2013-14 to ESY

2023-24. For promoting the use of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) as automotive fuel, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative has also been launched.

The government has been taking various steps to boost domestic oil and gas production which, *inter-alia*, include:

- i. Policy 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.

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