

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1889
ANSWERED ON 17/03/2025

DISCOVERY OF NEW POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS

1889 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE

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

- (a) the as on date actions taken by Government to discover new potential sources of crude oil and natural gas, as well as to reopen closed oil wells;
- (b) whether Government has implemented any new technologies to locate these potential resources; and
- (c) the number of new sources of crude oil and natural gas identified during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has undertaken various policy and technological initiatives to enable National Oil Companies (NOC) and other operators to discover new potential sources of crude oil and natural gas as well as to reopen closed oil/gas wells. These, 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 to Promote & Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil & Gas, 2018.
- ix. Policy Framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Contracts and Nomination Fields, 2018.
- x. Natural Gas Marketing Reforms, 2020.

- x. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2019 facilitating lower Royalty Rates, zero Revenue Share (till Windfall Gain) and no drilling commitment in OALP Blocks under Category II and III basins to attract bidders.
- xi. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades in 2022.
- xii. Government is also spending about Rs.7500 Crore 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.
- xiii. New technologies like Airborne Gravity Gradiometry and Gravity Magnetic Survey, Passive Seismic Tomography (PST), Low-Frequency Passive Seismic (LFPS) Surveys have been implemented to acquire high quality data for processing and interpretation.

The Government has also awarded 144 blocks under eight rounds of Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) biddings resulting in 13 hydrocarbon discoveries. Further, Government has approved 20% premium over Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price for gas production obtained from new wells or well interventions in Nomination fields which has led to 2280 well interventions across the country.

(c): During the period 2021-22 to 2024-25 (up to 01.03.2025), total 15 oil and gas discoveries in the blocks awarded in the production or revenue sharing contract regime and 24 oil and gas prospects in blocks under nomination regime have been made by Exploration and Production (E&P) operators.
