

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2526
ANSWERED ON 11/08/2025

EXPANSION OF DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION UNDER HELP

2526. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken concrete steps to expand domestic oil and gas exploration under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP);
- (b) the progress made in increasing LNG infrastructure and city gas distribution networks;
- (c) whether there are plans to promote green hydrogen and biofuels as part of India's energy transition; and
- (d) the extent of FDI attracted in the sector since 2019?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government have launched Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) in 2016. Under this policy, Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) was started. A total of 172 exploration blocks under OALP bid Round I to IX covering 3,78,652 Square Kilometer have been awarded to successful bidders. Further, OALP bid Round X offering 25 exploration blocks covering 1,91,986.21 sq. km has been launched on 15.04.2025.

(b) The total capacity of existing 08 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in India is 52.7 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA). 13 LNG retail stations have so far been commissioned by State owned Oil and Gas companies. Further, 16 LNG retail stations owned by private entities are also operational.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorized CGD entities to develop City Gas Distribution network in 307 geographical areas (GAs) covering almost 100% of the country's mainland (excluding islands). As on 31.05.2025, various CGD entities have provided 1.50 Crores domestic PNG connections and commissioned 8,083 CNG Stations.

(c): The Government have launched National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an objective to make India a Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, by targeting production of 5 MMT per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030.

Further, the National policy on Biofuels- 2018, as amended in 2022, *inter-alia* advanced the target of 20% blending of Ethanol in petrol from 2030 to Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26. During the ongoing ESY 2025-26, Public Sector Oil Marketing (OMCs) have achieved an average ethanol blending of 18.93% as on 30.06.2025.

Government have also launched “Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)” initiative on 1st October 2018 to promote the production of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) from various waste/ biomass sources in the country and for promoting its use along with Natural Gas.

(d) As per data compiled by DPIIT, the total FDI attracted in Petroleum Sector from 2019-20 to 2023- 2024 is 1103.07 Million USD.
