

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2844**  
ANSWERED ON – 18/08/2025

**MODERNISATION OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION FRAMEWORK**

2844 # SHRI RAMESWAR TELI:

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

- (a) whether Government has recently undertaken any reforms to modernise the regulatory framework of upstream oil and gas exploration and production in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of these reforms, especially in terms of enhancing investors' confidence, ensuring infrastructure sharing and operational flexibility; and
- (c) the steps that are being taken to facilitate the integration of renewable and low-carbon energy projects within petroleum lease areas in these reforms and to ensure environmental protection, data governance and dispute resolution under the new framework?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 was notified on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and was made effective from 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. The Salient Features of the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 which *inter-alia* include easing difficulties and boost investors' confidence, are as under:

- (i) delinking of petroleum operations from mining operations;
- (ii) broadening of the scope of the expression “mineral oils”;
- (iii) Introducing the concept of “petroleum lease”;
- (iv) granting lease on stable terms;
- (v) strengthening petroleum operations through rules framed for governing various functional aspects, such as, grants of leases or licences, their extension or renewal, sharing of production and processing facilities including infrastructure and safety at oilfields;
- (vi) providing for efficacious dispute resolution;
- (vii) decriminalising the provisions of the Act.
- (viii) introduction of penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority;
- (ix) creating an environment for facilitating energy transition by enabling development of comprehensive energy projects for harnessing wind and solar energy along with mineral oil at oilfields.

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