

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-150
ANSWERED ON- 01/12/2025

DISCOVERY OF NEW CRUDE OIL AND GAS RESERVES IN ANDAMAN SEA

150.SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether Government has confirmed reports of a major discovery of crude oil and natural gas reserves in the Andaman Sea, as recently announced by Government;
- (b) the estimated size, depth, and commercial potential of these reserves;
- (c) details of other recent discoveries made in Rajasthan, Assam, the Krishna-Godavari Basin, and Cauvery Basin, and their expected contribution to domestic production;
- (d) which public and private sector companies are engaged in exploration and extraction; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and accelerated commercialisation of newly discovered energy reserves across the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) & (b): Government is taking sustained measures towards exploring and identifying hydrocarbon reserves in the Andaman-Nicobar (AN) basin so that they can contribute to the country's long term energy security and reduce import dependence. India's Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS) estimates hydrocarbon resources of 371 Million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) in the AN Basin. Subsequent to HRAS 2017, a 2D broadband seismic survey has been completed in 2024 covering approximately 80,000 line kilometres of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (including in Andaman offshore). Indications of hydrocarbon presence have been observed in wells drilled by Oil India Limited (OIL) in the AN basin wherein occurrence of natural gas was reported at Sri Vijayapuram 2 well.

(c): The details of other discoveries in FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25 are placed as **Annexure I**.

(d): The list of major public and private sector companies which are engaged in exploration and extraction is placed as **Annexure II**.

(e): To ensure environmental safeguards, exploration activities can only commence after due clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006 (as amended). The EIA process involves scientific assessment, stakeholder consultation (including with local communities and fisherfolk), and clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Only upon securing these clearances, can companies begin operations, with all mandated safeguards in place.

In addition, the Parliament has recently enacted the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025, which promotes environmental sustainability, infrastructure development and accelerated commercialization in the upstream sector. The Salient Features of the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 inter-alia include:

- 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, 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.

Annexure I**Details of other recent discoveries made in Rajasthan, Assam, the Krishna-Godavari Basin, and Cauvery Basin, and their expected contribution to domestic production**

Sr.	Discovery Name	Hydrocarbon	Block	Basin	Notification of Discovery (NoD)
1	RE-7	Oil	Ravva	Krishna Godavari	23-08-2022
2	RF-10	Oil	Ravva	Krishna Godavari	02-12-2022
3	Mandapeta-60	Gas	Mandapeta-PML	Krishna Godavari	28-07-2022
4	Malleswaram-22	Gas	Malleswaram-Field PML	Krishna Godavari	30-08-2022
5	Kesanapalli West Deep-7	Oil & Gas	ML-AD-PO (Surface) ML-Vainateya (Subsurface)	Krishna Godavari	23-09-2022
6	Karugorumilli-1	Gas	ML-Godavari Onland	Krishna Godavari	23-09-2022
7	GS-15-22(AU)	Gas	ML-Vainateyam	Krishna Godavari	23-09-2022
8	Hatipoti-1	Oil & Gas	ML-Mekeypore-Santak-Nazira	Assam Shelf	29-03-2023
9	Sesabill-1	Oil	Hujrijan PML	Assam Shelf	10-12-2022
10	Gopavaram-21 (GMDL)	Oil	Srikatpalli-Pasarlupudi-24 &Gopavaram PML	Krishna Godavari	14-06-2023
11	South Mahadevapatnam-2	Gas	ML-Mahadevapatnam	Krishna Godavari	03-10-2023
12	Chitbari-1 (GOAI_Sub)	Gas	ML-Gojalia Field	Assam Arakan	02-01-2024

13	Talamura-3 (TMAB)	Gas	ML-West Tripura	Assam Arakan	01-02-2024
14	East Lakhbari-6 (ELDA)	Oil	ML-East Lakhbari	Assam Arakan	21-03-2024
15	South Baghjan-10	Oil	TinsukiaExtn PML	Assam Shelf	16-06-2023
16	CHOLA-1	Gas	CY-UDWHP-2019/1	Cauvery	09-08-2024
17	Rudra	Oil	AA-ONHP-2017/4	Assam Arakan	28-02-2025
18	Yandapalli-1 (YPAA)	Oil & Gas	Malleswaram PML	Krishna Godavari	25-03-2025
19	Mechaki-6	Oil	Mechaki PML	Assam Arakan	11-07-2024
20	Mechaki-7	Gas	Mechaki PML	Assam Arakan	09-01-2025

Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons

List of public and private sector companies who are engaged in exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons

A. Public Sector Companies (PSUs) - Total: 5

1	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)
2	Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
3	GAIL (India) Ltd.
4	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)
5	Bharat PetroResources Ltd. (BPRL)

B. No of Private Companies: 22

Sr. No.	Operators / Consortium & JV Partners
1	Adani Welspun Exploration Ltd.
2	BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd.
3	Deep Energy Resource Ltd. (also known as Prabha Energy Limited)
4	Essar Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Ltd.
5	Focus Energy Ltd.
6	GEECL
7	GNRL Oil & Gas Ltd.
8	Hardy Exploration & Production (India) Inc.
9	Hindustan Oil Exploration Co. Ltd. (HOEC)
10	InvenirePetrodyne Limited (erstwhile Tata Petrodyne Limited)
11	Invenire Energy Private Limited
12	Joshi Technologies International Inc.
13	Jubilant Energy (Kharsang) Pvt. Ltd.
14	Jubilant Oil & Gas Pvt. Ltd.
15	Oilmax Energy Pvt. Ltd.
16	Pan India Consultants Pvt. Ltd.
17	Ravva Oil Pte. Ltd.
18	Reliance Industries Ltd.
19	Sanron Energy Pvt. Ltd. (SEPL)
20	Selan Exploration Technology Ltd.
21	Sun Petrochemical Pvt. Ltd.
22	Vedanta Ltd.

Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons