

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1092
ANSWERED ON 09/02/2026

NATIONAL MISSION FOR DEEP OCEAN EXPLORATION

1092 # SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) the blocks explored and allocated so far under the National Mission for Deep Ocean Exploration;
- (b) the contribution of this mission so far to domestic oil and gas production;
- (c) the outcomes achieved by this mission in reducing import dependence and enhancing energy security; and
- (d) the progress made so far in the field of deep water and unconventional hydrocarbon exploration and the future plans thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Deepwater Exploration Mission was announced under Samudra Manthan on 15.08.2025, a landmark initiative to unlock the vast hydrocarbon potential of India's deepwater basins. No blocks have been allocated under the Mission so far.

(b) & (c): Does not arise in view of above.

(d): Government have undertaken various policy measures for deep-water and unconventional Hydrocarbon exploration which *inter-alia* include:

- (i) Announcement of National Deepwater Exploration Mission under Samudra Manthan with an objective to augment hydrocarbon resources and reserves and to enable their timely conversion into production.
- (ii) Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- (iii) Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades in 2022.
- (iv) Government have 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.

- (v) Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS 2025) has been launched on 17.07.2025 for resource assessment across all Indian sedimentary basins.
- (vi) As on date, 22 deep water and ultra-deep water exploration blocks have been awarded under various Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) Bid Rounds. In these blocks, 8 exploratory wells have been drilled in the Mahanadi, Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari (KG) and Andaman basins. As a result, 3 hydrocarbon discoveries have been notified in Mahanadi and Cauvery basins.
- (vii) National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) had been launched by the Government for exploration of Gas Hydrate in India. Till date, Two major expedition namely NGHP-01 (2006) and NGHP-02 (2015) have been completed.
