

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2686**  
ANSWERED ON -16/03/2026

**DETAILS OF OFFSHORE OIL BLOCKS AWARDED TO ONGC UNDER OALP**

2686 SHRI A.D. SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of new offshore oil blocks awarded to ONGC during the last three years, including those under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP);
- (b) the locations and estimated reserves of these new blocks;
- (c) the timeline for commencement of exploration and production activities in these blocks;
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure environmental protection and community welfare during exploration and development phases; and
- (e) the details of any international collaborations or partnerships involved in these projects?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c): During the last three years, six discovered small fields were awarded to ONGC under the discovered small field (DSF) in offshore areas. The estimated Oil and Gas in place in these blocks is 41.18 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE). Also, 24 exploration blocks have been awarded to ONGC under the Open Acreage licensing policy (OALP) during the last three years. In one of the blocks, one hydrocarbon discovery (Suryamani) has been notified for which the oil initially in –Place (OIIP) volume is estimated as 3.54 Million Metric Tonnes(MMT).
- (d): Environment protection and community welfare are integral components of the regulatory frameworks governing offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities.

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 fisher folk), 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. This operational framework reflects Government's commitment to maintain a balance between safeguarding ecosystem and advancing long-term energy security through responsible exploration activity.

(e): Under the OALP Bid Round-IX, in block GS-OSHP-2022/2, ONGC is the operator of the consortium with BP exploration (Alpha) Limited as consortium partner.

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