

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 132
ANSWERED ON - 20/07/2026

**MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND GAS AND
OIL PIPELINES**

132 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of recent fire incidents caused by unauthorized excavation damaging underground gas and oil pipelines, particularly in remote areas;
- (b) whether Government proposes to mandate all gas and oil pipeline operators to submit updated digital pipeline alignment maps, including AutoCAD/GIS formats, to local authorities, and integrate them with a centralized underground utility mapping system; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to make prior permission mandatory for excavations exceeding 8 feet, after verification of underground utility maps, and to establish a "Call Before You Dig (CBuD)/One-Call" clearance mechanism to prevent accidental pipeline damage and safeguard critical energy infrastructure?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) has reported occurrence of a fire accident on 30.06.2026 in petroleum product pipeline of Indian Oil Petronas Private Limited (IPPL) and Haldia Petrochemicals Limited at Haldia, West Bengal. In addition to this, a fire accident had occurred in Numaligarh-Siliguri multi-product pipeline on 01.06.2026 due to pilferage attempted by miscreants by drilling a hole in the pipeline. Also, thirteen (13) CGD pipeline fire incidents due to unauthorized excavation leading to fire were reported to PNGRB during the year 2025-26.
- (b) OISD Standard (OISD-STD-141) mandates retention of GIS mapping records of cross country pipeline by pipeline's owner in both physical and digital form for lifetime of the pipeline. Copy of such map is also submitted to District Administration while applying for No Object Certificate (NOC) for laying of pipeline. Moreover, under the aegis of PM Gati Shakti program, digital maps of all operating cross country pipeline have been uploaded in the portal and same is accessible to District Administration.
- (c) The Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (P&MP) Act, 1962 restricts unauthorized activities within pipeline Right of User (ROU) areas and provide penalties, including imprisonment for damaging pipelines. The Department of Telecommunication has developed an application CBuD (Call Before you Dig) and is being implemented by the oil and gas companies to facilitate coordination between excavation agencies and the oil and gas companies GAs (Geographical Areas), thus reducing the incidents and damage to the CGD (City Gas Distribution) infrastructure. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place to identify pipeline locations, determine pipeline depth, and obtain approvals for crossing work.
