

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1740
ANSWERED ON - 03/08/2026

**EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AND OALP BLOCKS IN BENGAL–PURNEA
OFFSHORE BASIN**

1740 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) the operator, status of Production Sharing Contract/Petroleum Exploration Licence and exploration work programme for offshore Block BP-OSHP-2022/1 in the Bengal–Purnea basin covering 5,754.92 sq. km., awarded under OALP-VIII;
- (b) whether Government has approved drilling of a stratigraphic well therein under ₹3,200 crore deep-water programme of ONGC and Oil India Limited and if so, its exact location and present status;
- (c) details of additional blocks offered or awarded in the Bengal–Purnea/Bengal basin under OALP Rounds X and XI; and
- (d) the estimated hydrocarbon potential and strategic significance thereof for India's energy security?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Offshore Block BP-OSHP-2022/1, covering an area of 5,754.92 sq. km. in the Bengal–Purnea Basin, was awarded to ONGC under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Bid Round-VIII. The Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) was granted on 06.02.2024. Details of committed work program and progress achieved is placed at **Annexure-I**.
- (b): India launched a ₹3,200 crore offshore stratigraphic drilling campaign targeting four deepsea sedimentary basins. Led by state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) with technical expertise from BP, the project focuses on gathering subsurface geological data rather than commercial production.
- (c): Details of blocks offered in the Bengal-Purnea/Bengal Basin under OALP Rounds X and XI are given at **Annexure-II**.
- (d): The Bengal–Purnea Basin is one of India's prospective sedimentary basins with hydrocarbon potential in both shallow-water and deep-water settings, with prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of 828 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE). The ongoing exploration programme under OALP, Government-funded stratigraphic drilling, and resource assessment initiatives are aimed at improving the understanding of the basin's petroleum systems, facilitate future exploration and development, and thereby contribute to India's long-term energy security.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1740 to be answered on 03.08.2026 regarding 'Exploration activities and OALP blocks in Bengal–Purnea Offshore Basin' asked by Shri Samik Bhattacharya.

The committed work program under Phase-I and the progress achieved are as follows:

Activity	Committed Work Program (CWP)	Actual Work done (as on 30.06.2026)
2D API (LKM)	200	Nil
3D API (SKM)	2500	2243
Well (Exploratory)	Nil	Nil

(Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons)

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1740 to be answered on 03.08.2026 regarding 'Exploration activities and OALP blocks in Bengal-Purnea Offshore Basin' asked by Shri Samik Bhattacharya.

Blocks offered under OALP Rounds X and XI in the Bengal-Purnea Basin.

S. No.	OALP Round	Block	Type	Basin Category	Block Area (Sq.km)	Status
1	X	BP-OSHP-2024/1	Shallow Water	III	9826.81	Bidding closed
2	X-Deepwater(D)	BP-UDWHP-2024/1	Ultra-Deepwater	III	12315.99	Offered
3	XI-Deepwater(D)	BP-UDWHP-2025/1	Ultra-Deepwater	III	4203.46	Offered

(Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons)