

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2529
ANSWERED ON - 10/08/2026

**LATEST STATUS OF LEASE DEED EXECUTION AND PRODUCTION
COMMENCEMENT AT ASHOKNAGAR OIL FIELD**

2529. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lease deed for the provisional petroleum mining lease granted by Government of West Bengal on 24th February 2025 for Block WB-ONN-2005/4 has been executed and if not, the current status of the stamp duty dispute raised by the State Government vide its letter dated 10th December, 2025; and

(b) whether commercial production of oil and gas has commenced at Ashoknagar Oil Field and if not, the revised projected timeline for oil and gas production given that the field development plan had originally projected oil within 10 months and gas within 17 months of lease deed execution?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) The Government of West Bengal granted a Provisional Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) for Block WB-ONN-2005/4 with effect from 24.02.2025, with a stipulation to execute the Lease Deed within 90 days of grant. The Lease Deed has not yet been executed. The validity of the provisional PML has since been extended twice, for six months each, to facilitate execution of the Lease Deed; the validity of the provisional PML grant was up to 24.05.2026.

In response to state government letter dated 10th December 2025, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited requested the State Government, vide letter dated 12.12.2025, to apply the provisions of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 for computation of the stamp duty.

(b) Commercial Production of oil and gas has not yet commenced at Ashoknagar Field. As part of Field Development Plan implementation with intimation to State Government, drilling of first Development Well has commenced on 30.05.2026.
