

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 300  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**Investment in Oil Exploration**

**\*300. SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI:**

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the steps taken to increase the investment in oil exploration and refining in the country;
- (b) the steps taken to check the quantity of petcoke produced from crude oil; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken for the disposal of emission of petcoke in the environment considering the health and environmental threat it poses?

**ANSWER**

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में मंत्री (श्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान)

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS**

**(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO 300 “INVESTMENT IN OIL EXPLORATION”**

(a) The major initiatives taken by the Government to increase investment in oil exploration and refining in the country include:-

- i. Implementation of Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).
- ii. Dissemination of Geo-scientific data through National data repository (NDR).
- iii. Early Monetization of Discovered Fields including small & Marginal fields.
- iv. Extension of Existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs).
- v. Appraisal of unappraised Areas in various sedimentary basins under National Seismic Program and Multi-client Geo-scientific Surveys/ activities in order to enable systematic exploration in these areas.
- vi. Re-Assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources in the Country.
- vii. Indian refineries have planned capacity addition through both Greenfield and brownfield projects.

The Government in February, 2019 approved major reforms in exploration and licensing policy to enhance exploration activities, attract domestic and foreign investment and accelerate domestic production of oil and gas from existing fields. The policy reforms *inter-alia* aims to boost exploration activities with greater weightage to work programme, simplified fiscal and contractual terms, bidding of exploration blocks under Category II and III sedimentary basins without any production or revenue sharing to Government, early monetization of discoveries by extending fiscal incentives, incentivizing gas production including marketing and pricing freedom, induction of latest technology and capital, more functional freedom to National Oil Companies for collaboration and private sector participation for production enhancement methods in nomination fields, streamlining approval processes and promoting ease of doing business including electronic single window mechanism.

(b) New technologies like Petcoke Gasification and circulating fluidised bed boilers are adopted for minimising Petcoke generations from refineries.

(c) Use of Petcoke has been banned in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi. Import duty on Petcoke has also been increased from 2.5% to 10%. Use of Petcoke is permitted only in selected industries like cement, lime, calcium carbide, aluminium/calciners and gasifiers on user basis.

\*\*\*\*\*