

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*198  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**Shale Oil and Gas**

**\*198. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

**पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री**

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

- (a) whether any shale oil or gas has been explored or discovered in India;
- (b) the quantity of shale oil and gas respectively India is importing from US annually from 2014 onwards including the total value of such imports in USD/Rupee terms annually;
- (c) the quantity of oil and natural gas India imports from Iran annually;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to make it Non-import dependent in oil and gas;
- (e) the reasons for increase in the retail price of petrol/diesel/LPG/kerosene in India since the COVID-19 Pandemic commenced in March, 2020 despite the Crude prices in the world declining sharply; and
- (f) whether the Government has any plans to explore oil and gas in Punjab, especially the area between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh namely the districts of Mohali, Rupnagar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot and Gurdaspur?

**ANSWER**

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

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the house.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 BY SHRI MANISH TEWARI TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021 REGARDING SHALE OIL AND GAS**

(a): Government of India announced Policy guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale gas and Oil on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 for National Oil Companies (NOCs) i.e., ONGC and OIL. ONGC has carried out Shale Gas and Oil exploration activities in Cambay, Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari and Assam and Arakan Basins. Oil India Ltd has carried out Shale Gas and Oil exploration activities in Assam and Rajasthan basins.

Further, in August, 2018, Government of India notified Policy Framework for Exploration & Exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Production Sharing Contracts, Coal Bed Methane Contracts and Nomination Fields to encourage the existing Contractors to unlock the potential of unconventional hydrocarbons including shale oil and gas in the existing acreages. NOCs have carried out Shale Oil/Gas Exploration work in their Petroleum Exploration License/ Petroleum Mining Lease areas. Operators of blocks Raniganj (South) and Raniganj (East) have evinced their interest to carry out shale operations in their blocks.

However, no Shale Oil and Shale Gas reserves have been established in the country so far.

(b): India is importing crude oil and gas from USA through a combination of term contracts and on spot basis. Oil & gas imported from USA is not categorized on the basis of source of production. As reported by Oil Companies, the details of India's Crude oil and LNG imports from USA from FY 2014-15 onwards are as under:

<b>Crude oil import from USA</b>							
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (April-January) (P)
Total crude oil import from US (Quantity in Million Metric Tonne)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	6.2	10.3	10.8
Crude oil import from US by Public Sector Units (Quantity in Million Metric Tonne)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	3.0	5.3	7.1
Crude oil import from US by Public Sector Units (PSUs) (Value)-US\$ Billion	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.6	2.7	2.2
Crude oil import from US by PSUs (Value)-Rupees. Crore	0	0	0	4138	11398	18915	16614

<b>LNG Import from USA</b>							
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (April-January) (P)
Total Quantity of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) import from US (in MMT	0.0	0.0	0.45	0.33	1.21	1.23	2.11
Total value of LNG import from US (in US\$ million)	0.0	0.0	156	158	557	517	733
Total Value of LNG import from US (in INR Crores)	0.0	0.0	1046	1015	3893	3663	5483

(P: Provisional)

(c): The quantity details of crude oil import from Iran from 2014-15 to 2020-21 (April-January) are as under:

<b>Crude oil import from Iran (in Million Metric Tonne)</b>						
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21(p)</b>
11.0	12.7	27.2	22.6	23.9	1.7	0.0

(P: Provisional)

There is no import of natural gas since 2015-16 from Iran.

(d): The policy initiatives taken by the Government to reduce import dependency and increase domestic production of oil and gas include:-

- i. Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries
- ii. Discovered Small Field Policy
- iii. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

- iv. Policy for Extension of Production Sharing Contracts
- v. Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane
- vi. Setting up of National Data Repository
- vii. Appraisal of Unappraised areas in Sedimentary Basins.
- viii. Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources.
- ix. Policy framework to streamline the working of Production Sharing Contracts in Pre-NELP and NELP Blocks
- x. Policy to Promote and Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas
- xi. Policy framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under existing Production Sharing Contracts, Coal Bed Methane contracts and Nomination fields

Further, the Government in February, 2019 approved major reforms in exploration and licensing policy to enhance exploration activities, attract domestic and foreign investment in unexplored/unallocated areas of sedimentary basins 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 production or revenue sharing to Government, early monetization of discoveries by extending fiscal incentives, incentivizing and more functional freedom to National Oil Companies for collaboration for production enhancement methods in nomination fields.

(e): Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market- determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel in line with their international product prices, exchange rate, tax structure, inland freight and other cost elements. The Government modulates the effective cost to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and Retail Selling Price of PDS Kerosene in an effort to keep the common man insulated from wide price fluctuations.

(f): Government formulated National Seismic Program (NSP) in October 2016, to apprise the unappraised areas in all sedimentary basins including sedimentary basins falling in the areas between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. It will help in boosting the confidence of prospective bidders to invest in E&P sector in India, by analysing the data available to them. This would help to improve perception of hydrocarbon prospectivity and generate for bidding out of acreage under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). The quantum of seismic survey work (in Line

Kilometer) done in the districts of Mohali, Rupnagar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot and Gurdaspur is as under:

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Line Kilometer</b>
Mohali	0
Rupnagar	68
Shahid Bhagat singh Nagar	42
Pathankot	11
Gurdaspur	33
Hoshiarpur	50
Total	204

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