

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4115
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th December, 2024

Capacity of Bongaigaon Refinery in Assam

4115. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the details of objectives and targets of the proposed plan of the Government to pass new laws regarding exploration of offshore oil deposits;
- (b) the manner in which the new laws are likely to have impact on the areas that were previously designated as "No Go" zones for oil exploration;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the capacity of Bongaigaon Refinery in Assam to 5 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which capacity of the said refinery is likely to be increased?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

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

(a) and (b) Government has introduced Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, with a view to increasing domestic production of oil & gas and reducing import dependence of the country. The objectives and targets of the Bill include, inter-alia, attracting investment in Exploration and Production sector to infuse necessary capital and technology, creating an investor friendly environment, promoting ease of doing business, ensuring stability, addressing energy transition issues, providing robust enforcement mechanism for ensuring compliance with provisions of the Act, aid in development and production of all types of hydrocarbons, etc. including in the blocks awarded in the previously designated "No-Go" areas. Until September 2022, offshore area was restricted for Exploration and Production operation with "No-Go" overlap of 1,366,708 sq km (~57% of total offshore area). Government has reduced the "No-Go" area to 24,832 sq km, thereby opening of up to ~99% of erstwhile No-Go area for exploration activities.

(c) & (d): Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has carried out an initial feasibility study for increasing capacity of Bongaigaon Refinery from existing 2.7 MMTPA to 5.0 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA). Investment decision in this regard has not been taken so far.
