

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th MARCH, 2025**

Dependence on Global Market Crude Oil for Domestic Use

3303. Shri Aditya Yadav:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the country is the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer and is dependent for crude oil from various sources in the global market to meet its domestic demand; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in mind that the country's demand for petroleum products is likely to increase in the coming years?

ANSWER

**पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)**

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

(a) and (b): India is the third largest oil importer in the world. Energy consumption in the country has been increasing continuously due to sustained economic growth over the last few years.

Government is taking various steps to provide for the country's energy security, through, inter alia, increasing domestic production of oil and gas, diversifying import sources to new countries and regions; and diversifying energy sources beyond traditional hydrocarbons' to emerging fuels like Ethanol, Compressed Biogas, Hydrogen etc through schemes such as Ethanol Blending Program (EBP), Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) etc.

To ensure security of crude supplies and to mitigate the risk of dependence on crude oil from single region, Indian Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have diversified their crude basket and are procuring crude from countries located at various geographical locations viz. Middle East, Africa, North America, South America etc.

Further, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to reduce the dependency on crude oil while securing the crude oil supplies for refineries, which include following:-

- i. Increasing domestic production of oil and natural gas through various policies initiatives, etc. to reduce import dependency.
- ii. Promoting usage of natural gas as fuel/feedstock across the country towards increasing the share of natural gas in economy and moving towards gas-based economy to reduce dependence on crude oil.
- iii. Promotion of renewable and alternate fuels like ethanol, second generation ethanol, compressed biogas, biodiesel, Green Hydrogen and EVs, to reduce import of crude oil while also drive clean energy adoption.
- iv. Diversification of crude oil supplies beyond Middle East and OPEC countries to secure stable supplies to refineries.
- v. Increasing refining capacity
- vi. Enhancing Strategic Petroleum Reserve capacity to mitigate supply risks and cushion against price volatility.
- vii. Refinery process improvements and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation to optimise operations.
- viii. Exploring investment opportunities in producing/near producing overseas assets in stable economies.
