

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4397**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**

**Progress in Offshore and Unconventional Hydrocarbons under HELP**

4397: DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

**पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री**

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

- (a) the details on the current status of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) along with the total investment attracted so far under the same;
- (b) the number of blocks awarded under the said policy since its introduction and the total estimated hydrocarbon reserves identified;
- (c) the revenue generated by the Government through license fees, royalties and other means from the blocks awarded under the said policy;
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that the hydrocarbon exploration and extraction under HELP do not adversely impact the environment and local communities;
- (e) whether there are specific cases where exploration activities have been halted due to environmental concerns, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the number of offshore and unconventional hydrocarbon blocks have been awarded under HELP;
- (g) the technological advancements being adopted to enhance exploration and extraction efficiency in deep-sea and unconventional reserves; and

(h) the list of hydrocarbon exploration blocks awarded under HELP, State-wise along with the status of exploration and production activities in Kerala as well as any new blocks identified for future auctions?

**ANSWER**

**पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

**(श्री सुरेश गोपी)**

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

**(SHRI SURESH GOPI)**

(a) to (f): The Government had introduced Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) on 30.03.2016. So far, eight rounds of OALP bidding have been completed and 144 exploration blocks cumulatively measuring 2,42,056 Square Kilometres have been allocated to the successful bidders for conducting Exploration and Production (E&P) activities. These activities have resulted into 14 hydrocarbon discoveries (8 oil and 6 gas) so far. The committed investment upto OALP Bid Round VIII is approximately USD 3.37 Billion. Government have received revenue share of Rs 233 Crores so far. Government have also received approximately Rs 60 Crores so far as License fee in respect of 39 offshore blocks which have been awarded under OALP bid rounds.

Reserves in respect of only one discovery viz. Jaya has been established with estimated reserves of 17.2 billion cubic feet (BCF) of Gas Initially in Place (GIIP).

Open Acreage Licensing Policy offers a single uniform license to the operators to explore and extract all hydrocarbons resources, conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons. Hence, the policy enables exploration of Unconventional Hydrocarbons in all 144 OALP blocks awarded till now.

Environmental clearances, including coastal zone clearances for oil and gas exploration as per the laws for the time being in force are essential before commencement of the activities. This typically involves an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study after the award. The EIA process involves

public hearing and ensures proper assessment of exploration activities on environment and only after obtaining necessary environmental clearances, with necessary safeguards measures for environmental protection and compliance, can companies commence exploration activities. Exploration and Production activities are undertaken in synergy with steps to enhance the livelihood of the people in the region as well as to ensure minimal impact on the environment. There have been no instances where exploration activities have been halted subsequent to receipt of environmental clearances.

(g): New technologies such as Airborne Gravity Gradiometry and Gravity Magnetic Survey, Passive Seismic Tomography (PST), Low-Frequency Passive Seismic (LFPS) Surveys etc., have been implemented to acquire high quality data for processing and interpretation. Further, advanced drilling, mud logging, wireline logging and testing technologies have been implemented by operators to enhance exploration and extraction efficiencies. ONGC has also introduced the Proxima Logging tool in the Mahanadi Offshore deepwater area which has reduced offshore rig time and costs while maintaining data quality.

Operators in E&P sector use technologies such as those for Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) for improving recovery factor in their respective fields. Also, ERD (Extended Reach Drilling) technology enables the drilling of extended horizontal wells, reaching targets several kilometres from the drilling site. This technique offers significant advantages to E&P operators, such as accessing previously unreachable reservoirs, enhancing reservoir contact, and reducing the number of drilling sites, thereby minimizing environmental impact.

(h): The State wise list of hydrocarbons exploration blocks awarded under HELP is attached as **Annexure**.

A total of three exploration blocks namely KK-OSHP-2018/1, KK-DWHP-2022/1 and KK-OSHP-2022/1 have been awarded In the Kerala-Konkan basin till now. The status of Committed versus actual exploratory work in these blocks is as under:-

	Committed Work Pgoragmme			Actual work Done		
Block Name	2D Seismic (API) (in	3D Seismic (API) (in	Wells	2D Seismic (API) (in	3D Seismic (API) (in	Wells

	<b>LKM)-</b>	<b>SKM)-</b>		<b>LKM)-</b>	<b>SKM)-</b>	
KK-OSHP- 2018/1	0	1017	2	0	1028	0
KK-DWHP- 2022/1	100	300	0	0	0	0
KK-OSHP- 2022/1	200	300	0	0	0	0

No blocks in the Kerala Konkan Basin region have been offered under OALP-Bid Round-IX and in ongoing Bid Round-X.

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**ANNEXURE**

S. No.	OALP Round	Block Name	Contractor/Operator	State/Jurisdiction-1	State/Jurisdiction-2	State/Jurisdiction-3
1	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Assam	Nagaland	-
2	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/10	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/11	Vedanta Limited	Assam	-	-
4	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/12	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
5	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/13	Oil India Limited	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	-
6	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/14	Vedanta Limited	Assam	Mizoram	-
7	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/15	Vedanta Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
8	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/16	Oil India Limited	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	-
9	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/17	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
10	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/18	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
11	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/19	HOEC	Assam	-	-
12	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
13	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/20	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
14	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/3	Vedanta Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
15	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/4	Vedanta Limited	Assam	Nagaland	-
16	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/5	Vedanta Limited	Assam	-	-
17	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/6	Vedanta Limited	Tripura	-	-
18	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/8	Vedanta Limited	Assam	-	-
19	OALP-I	AA-ONHP-2017/9	Vedanta Limited	Assam	-	-
20	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
21	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/10	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	Rajasthan	-
22	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/11	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-

23	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/12	GAIL	Gujarat	-	-
24	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
25	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/3	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
26	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/4	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
27	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/5	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
28	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/6	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
29	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/7	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
30	OALP-I	CB-ONHP-2017/9	BPRL	Gujarat	-	-
31	OALP-I	CY-ONHP-2017/1	ONGC Limited	Tamil Nadu	OFFSHORE	-
32	OALP-I	CY-OSHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	Tamil Nadu	Puducherry
33	OALP-I	CY-OSHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	Tamilnadu	Puducherry
34	OALP-I	GK-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	OFFSHORE	-
35	OALP-I	GK-OSHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	Gujarat	-
36	OALP-I	GS-OSHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
37	OALP-I	GS-OSHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
38	OALP-I	GV-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Uttar Pradesh	-	-
39	OALP-I	HF-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Himachal Pradesh	-	-
40	OALP-I	KG-DWHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
41	OALP-I	KG-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
42	OALP-I	KG-ONHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
43	OALP-I	KG-ONHP-2017/3	Vedanta Limited	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
44	OALP-I	KG-OSHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
45	OALP-I	MB-OSHP-2017/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
46	OALP-I	MB-OSHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
47	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/1	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
48	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/2	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
49	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/3	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	Gujarat	-
50	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/4	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
51	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/5	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-

52	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/6	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
53	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/7	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
54	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/8	Oil India Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
55	OALP-I	RJ-ONHP-2017/9	Oil India Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
56	OALP-II	AN-OSHP-2018/1	Oil India Limited	Andaman & Nicobar	OFFSHORE	-
57	OALP-II	AN-OSHP-2018/2	Oil India Limited	Andaman & Nicobar	OFFSHORE	-
58	OALP-II	CB-ONHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
59	OALP-II	CB-ONHP-2018/2	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
60	OALP-II	CY-ONHP-2018/1	IOCL	Tamil Nadu	-	-
61	OALP-II	GK-OSHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
62	OALP-II	GK-OSHP-2018/2	Vedanta Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
63	OALP-II	KG-UDWHP-2018/1	RIL-BP	OFFSHORE	-	-
64	OALP-II	MN-ONHP-2018/1	Oil India Limited	Odisha	OFFSHORE	-
65	OALP-II	MN-ONHP-2018/2	Oil India Limited	Odisha	-	-
66	OALP-II	MN-ONHP-2018/3	Oil India Limited	Odisha	-	-
67	OALP-II	MN-ONHP-2018/4	Oil India Limited	Odisha	-	-
68	OALP-II	MN-OSHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	Odisha	OFFSHORE	-
69	OALP-II	RJ-ONHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
70	OALP-III	AA-ONHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	Assam	-	-
71	OALP-III	AA-ONHP-2018/2	Oil India Limited	Nagaland	-	-
72	OALP-III	AA-ONHP-2018/3	Oil India Limited	Assam	-	-
73	OALP-III	AA-ONHP-2018/4	ONGC Limited	Tripura	-	-
74	OALP-III	AA-ONHP-2018/5	Oil India Limited	Tripura	-	-
75	OALP-III	BP-ONHP-2018/1	ONGC Limited	West Bengal	-	-
76	OALP-III	CB-ONHP-2018/3	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
77	OALP-III	CB-ONHP-2018/4	Vedanta Limited	Gujarat	-	-
78	OALP-III	CY-ONHP-2018/2	ONGC Limited	Tamil Nadu	Puducherry	-

79	OALP-III	CY-ONHP-2018/3	ONGC Limited	Tamil Nadu	OFFSHORE	-
80	OALP-III	KG-ONHP-2018/1	Vedanta Limited	Andhra Pradesh	OFFSHORE	-
81	OALP-III	KG-ONHP-2018/2	Vedanta Limited	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
82	OALP-III	KK-OSHP-2018/1	Oil India Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
83	OALP-III	MB-OSHP-2018/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
84	OALP-III	MB-OSHP-2018/2	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	Maharashtra	-
85	OALP-III	MN-DWHP-2018/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
86	OALP-III	MN-ONHP-2018/5	Oil India Limited	Odisha	-	-
87	OALP-III	RJ-ONHP-2018/2	Oil India Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
88	OALP-IV	BP-ONHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	West Bengal	Offshore	-
89	OALP-IV	RJ-ONHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
90	OALP-IV	VN-ONHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
91	OALP-IV	VN-ONHP-2019/2	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
92	OALP-IV	VN-ONHP-2019/3	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
93	OALP-IV	VN-ONHP-2019/4	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
94	OALP-IV	VN-ONHP-2019/5	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
95	OALP-V	AA-ONHP-2019/1	Oil India Limited	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	-
96	OALP-V	AA-ONHP-2019/2	Oil India Limited	Assam	-	-
97	OALP-V	BP-ONHP-2019/2	ONGC Limited	West Bengal	Odisha	-
98	OALP-V	CB-ONHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
99	OALP-V	CB-ONHP-2019/2	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
100	OALP-V	CY-UDWHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
101	OALP-V	GK-ONHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
102	OALP-V	GS-OSHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
103	OALP-V	MB-OSHP-2019/1	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
104	OALP-V	RJ-ONHP-2019/2	Oil India Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
105	OALP-V	RJ-ONHP-2019/3	Oil India Limited	Rajasthan	-	-
106	OALP-VI	CB-ONHP-2020/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-



107	OALP-VI	AA-ONHP-2020/1	Oil India Limited	Tripura	-	-
108	OALP-VI	AA-ONHP-2020/2	ONGC Limited	Tripura	-	-
109	OALP-VI	AA-ONHP-2020/3	Oil India Limited	Tripura	-	-
110	OALP-VI	CD-ONHP-2020/1	ONGC Limited	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
111	OALP-VI	NM-ONHP-2020/1	ONGC Limited	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh	-
112	OALP-VI	MB-OSHP-2020/1	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
113	OALP-VI	MB-OSHP-2020/2	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
114	OALP-VI	AN-UDWHP-2020/1	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
115	OALP-VI	AN-UDWHP-2020/2	ONGC Limited	Offshore	-	-
116	OALP-VI	CB-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	offshore	-
117	OALP-VI	CB-ONHP-2021/2	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	offshore	-
118	OALP-VI	GK-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
119	OALP-VI	GS-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
120	OALP-VI	GV-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Bihar	-	-
121	OALP-VI	GV-ONHP-2021/2	ONGC Limited	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh	-
122	OALP-VI	BP-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	West Bengal	-	-
123	OALP-VI	AA-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Tripura	-	-
124	OALP-VI	AS-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Assam	-	-
125	OALP-VI	CB-OSHP-2021/1	Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd.	OFFSHORE	Gujarat	-
126	OALP-VI	MB-OSHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
127	OALP-VII	RJ-ONHP-2021/1	GAIL	Rajasthan	-	-
128	OALP-VII	AA-ONHP-2021/2	ONGC Limited	Tripura	-	-
129	OALP-VII	CB-OSHP-2021/2	Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd.	OFFSHORE	-	-
130	OALP-VII	SR-ONHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	Madhya Pradesh	-	-

131	OALP-VII	CY-UDWHP-2021/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
132	OALP-VII	CB-OSHP-2021/3	Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd.	OFFSHORE	-	-
133	OALP-VII	AS-ONHP-2021/2	Oil India Limited	Assam	-	-
134	OALP-VII	AS-ONHP-2021/3	Oil India Limited	Assam	-	-
135	OALP-VIII	AS-ONHP-2022/1	Oil India Limited	Assam	-	-
136	OALP-VIII	CB-ONHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	Gujarat	-	-
137	OALP-VIII	KG-UDWHP-2022/1	RIL-BP	OFFSHORE	-	-
138	OALP-VIII	MB-OSHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
139	OALP-VIII	GK-OSHP-2022/1	Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd.	OFFSHORE	-	-
140	OALP-VIII	GS-DWHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
141	OALP-VIII	MN-UDWHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
142	OALP-VIII	BP-OSHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
143	OALP-VIII	KK-DWHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-
144	OALP-VIII	KK-OSHP-2022/1	ONGC Limited	OFFSHORE	-	-