

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th March, 2025

Pace of Exploration Activities

+ 4429: SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any measures to accelerate the pace of exploration activities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the importance of the exploration and production sector in achieving energy self-sufficiency and sustaining economic growth?

ANSWER

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

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

(a) & (b): The Government has undertaken various policy and technological initiatives to enable National Oil Companies (NOC) and other operators to discover new potential sources of crude oil and natural gas. These, inter-alia, include:

- i. Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications under PSC regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries, 2014.
- ii. Discovered Small Field Policy, 2015.
- iii. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2016.
- iv. Policy for Extension of PSCs, 2016 and 2017.
- v. Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane, 2017.
- vi. Setting up of National Data Repository, 2017.
- vii. Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- viii. Policy to Promote & Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil & Gas, 2018.
- ix. Policy Framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Contracts and Nomination Fields, 2018.

- x. Natural Gas Marketing Reforms, 2020.
- xi. Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2019 facilitating lower Royalty Rates, zero Revenue Share (till Windfall Gain) and no drilling commitment in OALP Blocks under Category II and III basins to attract bidders.
- xii. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades in 2022.
- xiii. Government is also spending about Rs.7500 Cr. for acquisition of seismic data in onland and offshore areas and drilling of stratigraphic wells to make quality data of Indian Sedimentary Basins available to bidders. Government has approved acquisition of additional 2D Seismic data of 20,000 LKM in onland and 30,000 LKM in offshore beyond Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India.
- xiv. New technologies like Airborne Gravity Gradiometry and Gravity Magnetic Survey, Passive Seismic Tomography (PST), Low- Frequency Passive Seismic (LFPS) Surveys have been implemented to acquire high quality data for processing and interpretation.

Exploration and Production (E&P) activities contribute to reducing the country's dependence on imported oil and gas through various mechanisms. The production of crude oil has been 29.36 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) during 2023-24 and currently about 53% of gas (36.43 Billion Cubic Meter) is being domestically produced by E&P companies.
