

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4628.**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2025

**INSTALLATION OF SMART METER AND DIGITAL MONITORING SYSTEM  
UNDER NGD**

4628. SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:  
SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the current percentage of natural gas in India's energy mix along with the strategy and initiatives of the Government towards increasing/achieving the target of 15 percent by 2030 including progress made in this regard so far;
- (b) the challenges anticipated in achieving this target and the proposed solutions to address them;
- (c) the projected impact on the country's energy security and environmental sustainability with the expansion of natural gas usage;
- (d) the number of smart meters and digital monitoring systems that have been installed under National Gas Distribution (NGD), State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage competitive gas prices?

**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) to (c) As per Energy Statistics 2025 released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, share of Natural Gas in India's Energy mix was 7.0% (Provisional) during Financial Year 2023-24. Government have taken various steps for increasing the share of natural gas in the energy basket, which *inter-alia*, include expansion of National Gas Grid Pipeline, expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals, allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport)/Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) CNG (T)/PNG(D) on priority, allowing marketing and pricing freedom with a ceiling price to gas produced from high pressure/high temperature areas, deep water & ultra-deep water and from coal seams, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative to promote Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) etc.

Consumption of natural gas is impacted by its price vis-a-vis alternate fuels and cost associated with its transportation across the country, including hilly areas and difficult terrains. Gas prices are dependent on various factors viz. domestic production, international availability, etc. Higher local production obviates need for additional imports. For increasing domestic gas production, Government have notified Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) for the award of exploration acreages shifting from Production Sharing

mechanism to Revenue Sharing mechanism. Government further notified the policy reforms on 28th February 2019, where many of the processes and approvals were relaxed to promote “Ease of Doing Business”, Revenue Share from Category II & III type of basins were removed, except for windfall gains, 7 years Royalty Holiday for Deep & Ultra-deep blocks, concessional Royalty Rates for Deepwater and for ultra-deep water blocks, and fiscal incentives have been provided for early monetization of fields along with Marketing and Pricing freedom for natural gas.

Consumption of natural gas not only enhances environmental sustainability as it is a cleaner and low-emitting fuel vis-a-vis other fossil fuels but also ensures energy security by allowing (i) the country to diversify its energy mix and thereby reduce its reliance on imported oil and coal and (ii) reduce its vulnerability to the volatility of the international market.

(d) The data regarding the number of smart meters and digital monitoring systems established for national gas distribution is not maintained by the Government. However, authorized entities implement such systems based on techno commercial feasibility in accordance with the regulations and guidelines issued by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). For instance, in order to ensure precision metering, major gas pipeline operators install advanced measurement systems such as Ultrasonic Meters, Turbine Meters, and Rotary Positive Displacement Meters. These are integrated with digital Flow Computers and Gas Chromatographs. All these metering components are integrated with Centralized SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System, enabling real-time digital monitoring, efficient pipeline hydraulics management, and auto invoicing.

(e) With the endeavor to provide competitive gas prices to the consumers (in the PNG(D) segment of the CGD), Government have been allocating domestic gas on priority basis, the price of which is determined in accordance with the revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines vide Gazette Notification dated 07.04.2023 for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks, and pre-NELP blocks, where the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for Government approval of prices. Under the revised guidelines, the price of such natural gas is determined as 10% of the monthly average of the Indian Crude Basket and is notified on a monthly basis. For gas produced by ONGC and OIL from their nomination blocks, the APM price is subject to a floor of \$4.0/Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) and a ceiling of \$6.5/MMBTU. The ceiling would be maintained for the next two financial years (2023-24 and 2024-25) and then increased by \$0.25/MMBTU each year. Further, Government vide notification dated 07.04.2023 also allowed a premium of 20% over the Administered Price Mechanism prices on gas produced from new well and well interventions of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited & Oil India Limited from their nomination fields. This has led to price stability for consumers.

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