

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4681
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st August, 2025

**MODERNISATION OF FRAMEWORK GOVERNING OIL AND GAS
EXPLORATION**

4681. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any recent reforms to modernise the regulatory framework governing upstream oil and gas exploration and production in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the key features thereof particularly in relation to improving investor confidence, infrastructure sharing and operational flexibility;
- (c) whether the said reforms also include measures to facilitate integration of renewable and low-carbon energy projects within petroleum lease areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure environmental safeguards, data governance and dispute resolution under the new framework; and
- (e) the details of gas exploration undertaken along with the oil wells discovered during the recent 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) to (d): The Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 was notified on 28th March 2025 and was made effective from 15th April, 2025. The Salient Features of the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 which *inter-alia* include easing out difficulties and boost investors' confidence, are as under:

- (i) delinking of petroleum operations from mining operations;
- (ii) broadening of the scope of the expression "mineral oils";
- (iii) Introducing the concept of "petroleum lease";
- (iv) granting lease on stable terms;
- (v) strengthening petroleum operations through rules framed for governing various functional aspects, such as, grants of leases or licences, their extension or renewal, sharing of production and processing facilities including infrastructure and safety at oilfields;

(vi) providing for efficacious dispute resolution;

(vii) decriminalising the provisions of the Act.

(viii) introduction of penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority;

(ix) creating an environment for facilitating energy transition by enabling development of comprehensive energy projects for harnessing wind and solar energy along with mineral oil at oilfields.

(e): 34 Notices of Discovery (NoD) have been submitted by operators to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon during the last three years. The details are as under:

Type of Hydrocarbon discoveries during the last 3 Years				
Year	Gas	Oil	Oil & Gas	Grand Total
2022-23	6	4	2	12
2023-24	5	5	2	12
2024-25	5	3	2	10
Grand Total	16	12	6	34

21 of these discoveries are onland and 13 of these discoveries are offshore.
