

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 700**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 04<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**

**Crude and Gas Exploration by the Private and Public Sector Entities**

700. Dr. Thirumaavalavan Tholkappian:

**पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री**

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

- (a) whether the Government has the details about the number of crude and gas exploration done by the private and public sector entities in the country as well as abroad, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has the details about the number of hydrocarbon wells that have been found in the country and the potential of such reserves found in the new wells; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

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

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

(a) to (c) As on 31.3.2025, in the country, the Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) acreage under crude and gas exploration held by public sector (Nomination Regime) is 1583 SKM (square kilometer); and by public sector/ private & joint venture entities is 12,539 SKM. A total of 616 blocks are being operated by public sector entities and 194 block are being operated by private sector and joint venture entities.

Government under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) and Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy has awarded a total of 112 blocks and the operators who have been awarded these blocks have drilled a total of 101 Exploratory Wells during the last five years.

Further, 34 Notices of Discoveries (NoD) have been submitted by Operators during the last three years. The details are as under:

Type of Hydrocarbon discoveries during the last three 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

The potential of reserves found in these discoveries is approximately 19 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of oil and 76 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of gas.

ONGC Videsh Ltd. (Fully owned subsidiary of ONGC) undertakes exploratory and development activities as Operator/JV Partner in various countries which *inter alia* include Colombia, Brazil, Vietnam, Myanmar, Russia, South Sudan, Mozambique, Venezuela etc. During the last 03 years, OVL has drilled 11 Exploratory wells having potential of reserves of Oil of 4.43 MMT and EUR 2P Gas of 6.16 BCM.

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