

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2160**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON -12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**REDUCTION IN IMPORT DEPENDENCE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

† 2160. SHRI. DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- a) whether the Government has adopted a long-term strategy to reduce dependence on import of petroleum and natural gas with the objective of strengthening the country's energy security and reducing foreign exchange expenditure;
- b) if so, the details of the percentage of import dependency during the last five years, in respect of crude oil and natural gas and the steps taken to increase domestic production in order to reduce such dependence; and
- c) whether any specific action plan has been implemented or proposed by the Government to reduce import dependence by promoting domestic Exploration and Production, Open Acreage Licensing Policy, alternative fuels such as Biofuels, Hydrogen and Compressed Biogas and energy efficiency and electric mobility, if so, the details thereof?

**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) Government have taken various policy decisions and steps to boost domestic crude oil and natural gas production and reduce dependency on import of oil and gas with the objective of strengthening the country's energy security and reducing foreign exchange expenditure which, inter alia, include:
  - i. Policy under Production Sharing Contract (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. Approval of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017;
  - viii. Policy frameworks for extension of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for Discovered Fields and Exploration Blocks under Pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (Pre-NELP) 2016 & 2017;
  - ix. Policy to Promote/Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods of Oil/Gas 2018;

- x. Policy Framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Contracts and Nomination Fields, 2018;
- xi. Natural Gas Marketing Reforms, 2020;
- xii. Lower Royalty Rates, Zero Revenue Share (till Windfall Gains) and no drilling commitment in Phase-I in OALP Blocks under Category II and III basins to attract bidders;
- xiii. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) “No-Go” areas in offshore which were earlier blocked for exploration for decades;
- xiv. Amendments to the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 to promote ease of doing business, contractual stability, operational efficiency and faster dispute resolution

(b) & (c) Import dependency during the last five years range between 85.5% – 88.6% in crude oil and in natural gas between 44% - 50%. Government has implemented various initiatives to reduce import dependence by promoting domestic Exploration and Production, alternative fuels such as biofuels, green hydrogen, compressed biogas, liquefied natural gas (LNG), energy efficiency and electric mobility, which inter-alia include achieving 20% ethanol blending under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP), and broadening the scope of feedstock to enhance the availability of ethanol. Government have launched Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) in 2016. Under this policy, Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) was started. During the last three years, 38 exploration blocks under OALP bid Round VIII and IX covering 1,72,912.95 Square Kilometer in the country have been awarded. The Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Awashesh Nivaran (PM JI-VAN) Yojana has been launched to provide financial assistance for setting up projects for advanced biofuels, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). For the promotion of Compressed Biogas (CBG), the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme has been launched, and schemes like BAM (Biomass Aggregation Machinery) and DPI (Direct Pipeline Infrastructure) have been introduced to support biomass aggregation and to connect CBG plants to the existing pipeline network. National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) has been launched with the objective of production of 5 MMTPA green hydrogen by 2030. Government have also taken various steps to augment the availability of LNG for various sectors which, inter-alia, includes establishment of LNG infrastructure including LNG terminals and LNG stations. Refineries are included in PAT (Perform, Achieve and Trade) energy efficiency improvement scheme of Government. Ministry of Heavy industries have sanctioned Rs. 873.5 Cr to PSU Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) under FAME II Subsidy scheme for setting up 8,932 Electric Vehicle Charging stations (EVCS), in addition 18,706 EVCS have been setup by OMCs at their ROs from their own funds. In all 27,638 numbers of EVCS have been set up across the country; out of which 20,886 EVCS have been energized.

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