

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 6279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND APRIL, 2026

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

6279. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase production of crude oil in the country during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the decline in crude oil production during the year 2024-25; and
- (c) the steps taken to offset supply pressures in view of the recent conflict in the Middle East?

ANSWER

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

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

(a) The Government has, from time to time, taken several measures to enhance crude oil production, including expansion of exploration acreage under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), reduction of 'No-Go' areas, de-risking of exploration through provision of geoscientific data, and implementation of various policy reforms, including Deregulation of sale of domestically produced crude oil in 2022-23, Enactment of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act and Promulgation of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025 to promote ease of doing business, contractual stability and operational efficiency and providing for single petroleum lease system, protection in case of change in law and effective dispute resolution mechanism, etc.

Under the framework of Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP), Discovered Small Fields (DSF) Policy and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) various bidding rounds are conducted periodically and blocks awarded for Exploration and Production of crude oil, natural gas and coal bed methane. In the last 5 years, 92 blocks with a total area of ~ 4,04,476 sq. KM have been offered under OALP bid Rounds VI to X. Similarly, 90 Discovered Small Fields (DSF) with an area of ~ 19,937 Sq. KM have been offered under DSF III, DSF IV and Special DSF Bid Rounds during the same period.

(b) Production is impacted due to natural decline in mature and ageing oil and gas fields. Many of the country's major producing fields, such as Mumbai High and fields in Assam, have been in production for several decades and have passed their plateau production phase. In addition, geological and operational challenges impact production levels. These include increasing watercut, which leads to higher water production and reduces oil and gas yield, sand ingress, and limited reservoir influx. Further, subsurface complexities sometimes restrict the effectiveness of workover operations, new drilling and infill wells, thereby affecting the overall contribution to production.

(c) To ensure security of crude supplies and to mitigate the risk of dependence on crude oil from single region, Oil and Gas Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) which are Board run entities source crude oil from diverse sources depending on their technical and commercial considerations. Currently, these PSEs import crude oil from 41 countries including new suppliers like USA, Nigeria, Angola, Canada, Columbia, Brazil and Mexico in addition to traditional suppliers from the Middle East.
