

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th February, 2026
New Oil and Gas Exploration Blocks

939. Shri Mukeshkumar Chandrakaant Dalal:
Shri Jashubhai Bhilubhai Rathva:
Smt. Shobhanaben Mahendrasinh Baraiya:
Shri Dineshbhai Makwana:
Dr. Manna Lal Rawat:
Smt. Kamlesh Jangde:
Shri Lumbaram Choudhary:
Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato:
Shri Praveen Patel:
Smt. Aparajita Sarangi:
Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri:
Shri Jugal Kishore:
Dr. Hemang Joshi:
Shri Janardan Mishra:
Shri Khagen Murmu:
Shri Rajkumar Chahar:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the number of new oil and gas exploration blocks awarded or made operational during the last three years in the country, State/UT-wise, especially in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) the extent to which domestic production contributes towards reducing import dependence;
- (c) the manner in which domestic crude oil and natural gas production levels have changed during this period;
- (d) whether ease-of-doing-business reforms have improved investment response in the upstream sectors, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the progress made in deepwater and unconventional hydrocarbon exploration

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): 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. List of blocks awarded in offshore areas, States and UTs is placed as **Annexure I**.

None of the blocks awarded under these rounds fall within the territorial jurisdiction of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) & (c): For the Financial Year 2024-25, total import of crude oil was 243 Million Metric Tonne (MMT). The total domestic production of oil was 28.7 MMT and that of gas was 36.1 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The entire quantum of crude oil and natural gas produced domestically contributes towards reducing import dependence. The year-wise domestic crude oil and natural gas production during the last three years is as follows:

FY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Crude Oil (MMT)	29.2	29.4	28.7
Gas (BCM)	34.5	36.4	36.1

Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)

(d): Government has taken various policy decisions towards ease of doing business which helped in boosting domestic crude oil and natural gas production and reduce dependency on import of oil and gas 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 to Promote/Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods of Oil/Gas 2018;
- ix. Policy for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under Existing Fields, 2018;
- x. Lower Royalty Rates, Zero Revenue Share (till Windfall Gain) and no drilling commitment in Phase-I in OALP Blocks under Category II and III basins to attract bidders, 2019;
- xi. Natural Gas Marketing Reforms, 2020;
- xii. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) “No-Go” area in offshore which were earlier blocked for exploration for decades, 2022;
- xiii. Revised Domestic Price Guidelines were issued in 2023;
- xiv. Amendments in the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 to promote ease of doing business, contractual stability, operational efficiency and faster dispute resolution, 2025;
- xv. Notification of Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025.

(e): Government have undertaken various policy measures for deep-water and unconventional Hydrocarbon exploration which *inter-alia* include:

- (i) Announcement of National Deepwater Exploration Mission under Samudra Manthan with an objective to augment hydrocarbon resources and reserves and to enable their timely conversion into production.

- (ii) Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- (iii) Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades in 2022.
- (iv) Government have approved acquisition of additional 2D Seismic data of 20,000 LKM in onland and 30,000 LKM in offshore beyond Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India.
- (v) Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS 2025) has been launched on 17.07.2025 for resource assessment across all Indian sedimentary basins.
- (vi) As on date, 22 deep water and ultra-deep water exploration blocks have been awarded under various Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) Bid Rounds. In these blocks, 8 exploratory wells have been drilled in the Mahanadi, Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari (KG) and Andaman basins. As a result, 3 hydrocarbon discoveries have been notified in Mahanadi and Cauvery basins.
- (vii) National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) had been launched by the Government for exploration of Gas Hydrate in India. Till date, Two major expedition namely NGHP-01 (2006) and NGHP-02 (2015) have been completed.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 939 to be answered on 05.02.2026 regarding “New Oil and Gas Exploration Blocks”.

Details of blocks awarded under OALP Bid Round VIII and IX

Sr No	Block Name	OALP Bid Round	State
1	AS-ONHP-2022/1	VIII	Assam
2	CB-ONHP-2022/1	VIII	Gujarat
3	KG-UDWHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
4	MB-OSHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
5	GK-OSHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
6	GS-DWHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
7	MN-UDWHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
8	BP-OSHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
9	KK-DWHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
10	KK-OSHP-2022/1	VIII	OFFSHORE
11	CY-UDWHP-2022/1	IX	OFFSHORE
12	CY-UDWHP-2022/2	IX	OFFSHORE
13	CY-UDWHP-2022/3	IX	OFFSHORE
14	CB-ONHP-2022/2	IX	Gujarat
15	GS-OSHP-2022/1	IX	OFFSHORE
16	GS-OSHP-2022/2	IX	OFFSHORE
17	AS-ONHP-2022/2	IX	Meghalaya
18	AS-ONHP-2022/3	IX	Meghalaya
19	GK-OSHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
20	GS-ONHP-2023/1	IX	Gujarat
21	CY-UDWHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
22	GS-UDWHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
23	GS-UDWHP-2023/2	IX	OFFSHORE
24	GS-OSHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
25	MB-OSHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
26	CB-OSHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
27	MB-OSHP-2023/2	IX	OFFSHORE
28	GS-ONHP-2023/2	IX	Gujarat
29	GS-ONHP-2023/3	IX	Gujarat
30	CB-OSHP-2023/2	IX	Gujarat
31	CB-ONHP-2023/1	IX	Gujarat
32	CB-ONHP-2023/2	IX	Gujarat
33	CB-ONHP-2023/3	IX	Gujarat
34	MN-UDWHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
35	MN-UDWHP-2023/2	IX	OFFSHORE
36	KG-UDWHP-2023/1	IX	OFFSHORE
37	KG-UDWHP-2023/2	IX	OFFSHORE
38	MN-UDWHP-2023/3	IX	OFFSHORE