

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1920
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026

EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBONS

1920. SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:
SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the measures taken to promote exploration and production of hydrocarbons;
- (b) the policy reforms which have been introduced to attract investment and ease of doing business in the upstream petroleum sector;
- (c) the details of the progress achieved under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OLAP) and other initiatives taken for exploration;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to increase domestic production of crude oil and natural gas; and
- (e) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote exploration activities in frontier and previously inaccessible areas?

ANSWER

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

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

(a), (b), (d) & (e): Government have implemented multiple policies to improve domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons, attract investment, promoting ease of doing business the details are placed at **Annexure-I**.

(c): Under OALP Rounds I–IX, 172 exploration blocks covering 3.79 lakh sq. km have been awarded, attracting committed investments of about USD 4.36 billion and resulting in 21 hydrocarbon discoveries. The progress achieved under OALP(as on 31.03.2026)includes:

- (i) Acquisition of 37,740 LKM of 2D seismic data and 52,000 sq. km of 3D seismic data under the Committed Work Programme.
- (ii) Drilling of 114 exploratory wells against committed obligations.
- (iii) 21 hydrocarbon discoveries have been made under OALP.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A), (B), (D) & (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1920 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING "EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBONS ASKED BY SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL AND SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL.

- 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.
- xvi. The Model Revenue Sharing Contract (MRSC) has been revised to align with the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025. The updated MRSC strengthens contractual clarity, operational flexibility, and commercial certainty across all basin categories.
- xvii. 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.
- xviii Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- xix. Release of about 1 Million Sq. Km. (SKM) 'No-Go' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades in 2022.
- xx. 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.
- xxi. Hydrocarbon Resource Assessment Study (HRAS 2025) has been launched on 17.07.2025 for resource assessment across all Indian sedimentary basins.
- xxii. The Royalty rates for production of crude oil and casing head condensate has been notified vide notification dated 08.05.2026 and 04.06.2026.
