

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1856
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th December, 2023

Natural Gas Reserves

1856. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:
SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- a) whether any survey/exploration has been made regarding the total natural gas reserve in each region of the country;
- b) if so, the periods when the survey was made and the total reserve of Natural Gas;
- c) whether it has been revealed from any of the surveys that India has huge reserves of natural gas as compared to India's annual consumption of natural gas and if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether there is any policy to fully exploit the natural gas reserve so as to reduce the import of petroleum products; and
- e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c) Hydrocarbon exploration is a continuous activity that *inter-alia* comprises seismic data acquisition, processing, interpretation, well drilling and other exploration activities (like Airborne Gravity Gradiometry, etc.). Various such exploratory activities are carried out, under the Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP), New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Pre-NELP/Nomination Regimes, by National Oil Companies (NOCs) like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and other private operators with whom the Government of India has signed Revenue Sharing Contracts (RSCs) and Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). In addition, the Government of India has commissioned the following survey projects:

Survey Activity	Period
Hydrocarbon Reassessment Survey	September 2015- November 2017
National Seismic Programme	Started on 2017-2018 and completed on 31.03.2022
Airborne Geophysical Survey	Started on 27.05.2023 and acquisition is still under progress
Deep Andaman Offshore Project	Started in 2021-22 and Completed on 31.03.2023
Appraisal of Sedimentary Basin up to EEZ	Started in FY 2022-23 and Acquisition Completed, Processing and Interpretation is still under progress

Exploratory activities have resulted into establishment of about 3952.68 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of Initial In place of Gas (2P) with an Estimated Ultimate Recovery (EUR) of about 1829.56 BCM gas in the country as on 01.04.2023. The location-wise details are as under:

<u>Natural Gas reserves status by location as of 01.04.2023 (Provisional)</u>			
Location	2P In-Place GAS (BCM)	2P EUR GAS (BCM)	2P Reserves GAS (BCM)
OFFSHORE	2195.50	1124.83	360.17
ONLAND	1757.18	704.73	290.46
Country Total	3952.68	1829.56	650.63

Source: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

During the FY 2022-23, the annual consumption of natural gas was 59.969 BCM.

(d) & (e) The Government has taken various policy initiatives to exploit the natural gas reserves so as to reduce the import of petroleum products like reforms in Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, policy to promote and incentivize Enhanced Oil Recoveries (EOR), policy framework for exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from areas under Coal Mining Lease and early monetization of CBM. Efforts have been made to increase the net geographical area under exploration from 2.5 Lakh Square Kilometer (SKM) to 5 Lakh SKM. Further, Government of India has opened 99% of the 'No-Go' area of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for Hydrocarbon Exploration and Development.

In addition, to reduce imports and improve energy security, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy comprising increasing domestic production of oil and gas, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, giving thrust on demand substitution, promoting biofuels and other alternate fuels/ renewable, EV charging facilities and refinery process improvements for reducing the country's oil dependence on imported crude oil.
