

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1790
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER 2024**

REDUCTION IN IMPORT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

†1790. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any long-term plan to develop Petroleum and Gas sector to reduce the imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which imports are likely to be reduced by the implementation of the above scheme; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce the imports?

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) to (d): Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to reduce the dependency on crude oil which, inter alia, include demand substitution by promoting usage of natural gas as fuel/feedstock across the country towards increasing the share of natural gas in economy and moving towards gas based economy, promotion of renewable and alternate fuels like ethanol, second generation ethanol, compressed bio gas and biodiesel, creating electric vehicle charging infrastructure, refinery process improvements, promoting energy efficiency and conservation, efforts for increasing production of oil and natural gas through various policies initiatives, etc. For promoting the use of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) as automotive fuel, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative has also been launched. Government's push to other alternative fuels such as ethanol blended petrol (EBP) Programme has resulted in forex savings of Rs. 1.09 Lakh crore approx. from ESY 2013-14 to ESY 2023-24.

However, India's energy consumption is increasing continuously due to sustained economic growth over the last few years through industrialisation, urbanisation, transportation needs, infrastructure development, rising income, improved standard of living, increased access to modern energy coupled with increase in private consumption and gross fixed capital formation, etc. resulting in increasing import of Crude Oil.

The government has been taking various steps to boost domestic oil and gas production which, *inter-alia*, include:

- i. Policy under 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. Appraisal of Un-appraised areas in Sedimentary Basins under National Seismic Programme, 2017.
- viii. Policy framework for extension of PSCs for Discovered Fields and Exploration Blocks under Pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (Pre-NELP), 2016 and 2017.
- ix. Policy to Promote and Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and 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 Gain) 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' area in offshore which were blocked for exploration for decades.
- xiv. Government is also spending about Rs.7500 Cr. for acquisition of seismic data in onland and offshore areas and drilling of stratigraphic wells to make quality data of Indian Sedimentary Basins available to bidders. Government has 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.
