

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ONGC has also got the baseline production profile vetted by the third party; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) In November 2017, ONGC had approved the policy and business model for Production Enhancement Contract (PEC) to raise output and enhance recovery from mature oil fields. Two onshore fields, one in Ahmedabad Asset and another in Assam Asset were identified by ONGC for implementing the PEC. Third party international expert carried out vetting of baseline production profiles of these fields. However, in view of the policy of bidding out small/marginal fields of ONGC approved by the Cabinet and deviations sought by the bidders, ONGC closed the process of PEC bidding for the two fields.

Enhanced oil recovery activities by ONGC

2692. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has already initiated major Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) activities in order to enhance the recovery of oil from the matured fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the EOR model through Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) will not only help increasing its production but also provide impetus to environmental management to a great extent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) ONGC has already commercialized five Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes namely Miscible Gas Injection in Gandhar Field, Viraj Alkali Surfactant Polymer project, Sanand polymer injection, Santhal Field Redevelopment Scheme and In-situ Combustion in Balol Field.

(c) and (d) The EOR model through Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage aims to mitigate the emission of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) by capturing it at the point of combustion, then storing it in geological reservoirs. CO₂ improves oil recovery by dissolving in, swelling, and reducing the oil viscosity.

Welfare of economically weaker section

2693. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people in the country recognized under Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, State-wise;
- (b) the details of such people, State-wise, gender-wise and age-wise;
- (c) whether Government aims to introduce more measures for the welfare of the EWS in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) other initiatives being taken by Government in this regard, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) No Census/Survey has been conducted for Economically Weaker Section category by this Ministry/Government of India as the reservation for EWS started only in January, 2019.

(c) to (e) No Sir, because Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is already implementing the following schemes for welfare of Economically Weaker Section:

- (i) Dr. Ambedkar Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships for the Economically Backward Class (EBC) Students.
- (ii) Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).
- (iii) Assistance for Skill Development of OBCs/DNTs/EBCs.

Details about the three Schemes are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of the Schemes for the welfare of EBCs

1. **Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)**

The objective of the scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious OBC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.