

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Ministry closely studies global developments, including in the Middle East, that may impact supply as well as price of hydrocarbons to India. The crude oil and natural gas price fluctuation is a frequent market phenomenon.

The Government has advised Oil PSUs to formulate policy for import of crude oil in their best commercial interest and as per CVC instructions. Government continues to monitor prices of sensitive petroleum products. Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel, in line with international product prices and other market conditions.

#### **Shale exploration programme halt by ONGC**

2052. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has wound up its shale exploration programme mid-way after spending five years and hundreds of crores of rupees, concluding that country may not have enough commercially-extractable shale reserve; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) ONGC has drilled 28 assessment wells in Cambay, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Assam Basin. The data acquired, so far, is under assessment for potential of shale-gas and shale-oil.

#### **Oil and natural gas fields**

2053. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in number of bidders for oil and natural gas blocks since liberalisation of oil exploration under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP);

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

- (c) whether any measures/plans are to be taken to incentivise investment by companies to increase production from oil fields already producing;
- (d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (e) number of oil fields forced to close or stalled due to high rates of cess and profit petroleum; and
- (f) revenue generated from domestic oil and gas producers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Details of number of bidders of oil and natural gas blocks under first four rounds of Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP)/Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) held so far are as below:—

OALP Round	No. of Blocks	No. of bidders
I	55	9
II	14	8
III	18	5
IV	7	2

(c) and (d) The Government of India has notified 'Policy framework to promote and incentivise Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas' to provide fiscal incentives to adopt Enhanced Recovery (ER), Improved Recovery (IR) and Unconventional Hydrocarbon (UHC) production Methods. Under this policy, fiscal incentives are extended in the form of partial waiver of applicable Cess/Royalty on incremental production. The Government of India has approved 'Exploration and Licensing Policy for Enhancing Domestic Exploration and Production of Oil and Gas' on 19th February, 2019 which includes Production Enhancement Scheme for producing nomination fields with more functional freedom to National Oil Companies for collaboration and private sector participation.

(e) As per available records in the Ministry, no oil fields were closed due to high rates of cess and profit petroleum.

(f) Domestic oil and gas producers paid a total amount of approximately ₹34,300 crore to the Government of India as Cess, Royalty and Profit Petroleum during the year 2018-19. In addition, total amount of royalty paid to State Governments during 2018-19 from oil and gas production is approximately ₹13,400 crore.