

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2532
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2021**

Oil exploration by ONGC

**2532 Shri Rajeev Satav:
Shri Sanjay Seth:**

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

- (a) the contribution of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in oil exploration in the country since its inception;
- (b) whether crude oil production by ONGC has helped the country in reducing oil import and if so, the quantum of crude oil produced by ONGC during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has taken effective steps to increase the crude oil production of ONGC to cut down the import bill and foreign exchange expenditure; and
- (d) the details of the number of projects undertaken and completed by ONGC in other countries during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

**MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) Since inception ONGC has acquired 10,81,144 Line Kilometre of 2D, 2,81,245 Square Kilometre of 3D seismic data and drilled 6549 exploratory wells. It has notified 628 hydrocarbon discoveries and established 8150.16 MMtoe In-Place hydrocarbon volume and 2939.78 MMtoe (2P) of Estimated Ultimate Recovery.

(b) ONGC being one of the major producer of Oil and Gas, plays a very important role towards the goal of reducing import dependency. Increasing production of Oil and Gas is one of the important pillars in reduction of import of Oil and Gas for the country. Production of Crude oil by ONGC in the last three years is as below:

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)
2017-18	22.305
2018-19	21.111
2019-20	20.714

(c) The Government in February, 2019 approved major reforms in exploration and licensing policy to enhance exploration activities, attract domestic and foreign investment in unexplored/unallocated areas of sedimentary basins and accelerate domestic production of oil and gas from existing fields.

Various long term and short term policy initiatives taken by Government and steps taken by ONGC to increase production of domestic oil and gas are given below:-

1. Long Term Initiatives

- i. Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications 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, 2016.
- iv. Policy for Extension of Production Sharing Contracts, 2016 and 2017.
- v. Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane 2017
- vi. Setting up of National Data Repository, 2017.
- vii. Appraisal of Unappraised areas in Sedimentary Basins 2017
- viii. Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources 2017
- ix. Policy framework to streamline the working of Production Sharing Contracts in Pre-NELP and NELP Blocks, 2018.
- x. Policy to Promote and Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas, 2018.
- xi. Policy framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under existing Production Sharing Contracts, Coal Bed Methane contracts and Nomination fields, 2018.
- xii. Policy framework for Exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from areas under Coal Mining Lease allotted to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries 2018
- xiii. Reforms in Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy for enhancing domestic exploration and production of oil and gas 2019

2. Short term initiatives

- i. Early Monetization of Existing Discoveries.
- ii. Improving Recovery Factor through implementation of IOR and EOR techniques.
- iii. Revival of sick wells.
- iv. Infill Drilling of wells.
- v. Renewal of Facilities and other infrastructure.
- vi. Monetization of small and marginal discoveries in onshore through service contract and outsourcing.
- vii. Redevelopment of existing matured fields and development of new fields/marginal fields.
- viii. Induction of suitable technologies on selective fields

(d) ONGC Videsh Limited has acquired the following projects during the last three year and current year:

S.no	Name of Asset	Date of Acquisition	Type of Assets	Status
1.	PEL 0037, Namibia	03.10.2017	Exploratory	ONGC exited from this project w.e.f 23.03.2020 due to no exploration success.
2.	Lower Zakum Concession, UAE	09.03.2018	Producing block	It is a producing Asset. ONGC has received 44 Million USD as dividend.
3.	Block 32, Israel	27.03.2018	Exploratory block	Not economically viable. Notice for relinquishment served.
