

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1565  
ANSWERED ON - 09/12/2024

**STATUS OF SHALE OIL/ GAS EXPLORATION/PRODUCTION IN THE  
COUNTRY**

1565: DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) the updated status of Shale oil/gas exploration/production in the country;
- (b) the policy of the Government, as on date; and
- (c) whether Government has taken/proposes to take advice of international experts to increase shale oil/gas production in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has identified 50 blocks in 4 basins viz., Assam, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery & Cambay and Oil India Limited (OIL) had identified 6 blocks in 2 basins viz. Jaisalmer and Assam for exploration of shale gas in Phase-I which ended in April-2017. In these identified blocks, ONGC and OIL have drilled 30 and 4 well respectively. Further, M/s Essar Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Limited (EOGEPL), holding Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in Raniganj (West Bengal) has taken up drilling of first core well to acquire continuous core data. M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL) which has CBM blocks in Raniganj (West Bengal), has done preliminary shale gas assessment. M/s Cairn has already drilled one pilot well in the Vijaya and Vandana area, in Barmer district in Rajasthan, to test the potential of unconventional hydrocarbon including shale oil/ gas.

(b) and (c): To promote exploration and production of shale gas/ oil Government has issued various policy guidelines from time to time. These, inter-alia, include:

(i) Policy Guidelines for exploration and Exploitation of shale gas and Oil by national Oil Companies under Nomination regime dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the National Oil Companies (NOCs), holding Petroleum Exploration License/ Petroleum Mining Lease granted under the nomination regime, are given the right of exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil.

(ii) In 2018 Government has allowed E&P operators in India to explore and develop all unconventional hydrocarbons (CBM, shale oil and gas, tight gas) under existing production sharing contracts, CBM blocks, and nominated licenses. This allows the exploration and development of shale gas/oil in existing PML areas.

(iii) Policy framework to promote and incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas was notified by the Government in 2018. Under this policy, various fiscal incentives are being provided to the operators for future discoveries of unconventional hydrocarbons (Shale Gas/Oil and Gas Hydrate).

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has entered into an open ended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of State (DOS), USA on 6th November 2010 with an objective to exchange knowledge and expertise in the areas concerning Shale Gas resource characterization and assessment in India. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons and University of Houston (UH) have entered into an MoU in 2023, allowing domain experts from UH to analyse the geological prospectivity of Indian basins for all possible hydrocarbon resources, both conventional and unconventional including shale, based on available data.

\*\*\*\*\*