

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:43  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003  
INDO IRAN PIPELINE PROJECT  
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a): whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `India-Iran Pipedream is quietly buried in Delhi` reported in the `Indian Express` dated 26.1.2003;
- (b): if so, whether a meeting was held between him and the Iranian President and their Oil Minister;
- (c): if so, whether the issue relating to laying of pipeline was discussed with the Iranian leaders;
- (d): if so, the details thereof;
- (e): whether deep sea pipeline for natural gas is expensive, unsafe and technically not viable; and
- (f): if so, the alternate arrangements discussed and agreed between the two countries to supply natural gas to India?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 43 BY SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI AND VILAS MUTTEMWAR TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING IRAN PIPELINE PROJECT.

(a) to (f): Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of Iranian President to India, a meeting was held with the Energy Minister of Iran on 25th January, 2003. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 27th January, 2003 between India and Iran for mutual cooperation in hydrocarbon sector including both natural gas and LNG. Earlier, under bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee had constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee had decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly, GAIL and NIGEC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India. Decision to take up the project would depend on technical feasibility and economic viability of the project. No decision on on-land pipeline from Iran to India passing through Pakistan has been taken.