

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2892
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
USE OF ISRAELI PIPE LINE
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to diversify its sources of crude supplies by using an Israeli pipeline to access crude oil from the Central Asia and Caspian Sea region to feed its fuel needs;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement between India and Israel has been reached; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c) Given the increasing dependence on imported crude, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to diversify its sources of crude supplies. Accordingly, the possibility of using the Ashkelon-Eilat (Israeli) pipeline from Baku (Caspian Sea) via Tbilisi (Georgia) to Ceyhan (Turkey) is under consideration for crude oil that India may pick up at the Ceyhan Terminal of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline as a supplement to the Suez Canal route. While no agreement has been signed between the Government of Israel and Government of India in this regard, the oil companies will consider using this pipeline, subject to commercial economics, once the pipeline is made operational by the end 2005.