

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005

INDO- BANGLADESH -MYANMAR GAS PIPELINE

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) the present status of the Indo-Bangladesh-Myanmar gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether a fresh agreement has been signed among the three countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the likely cost of the project; and
- (e) the time by which the said gas pipeline would be operational?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): In January 2005, Minister (P&NG) participated in a trilateral Ministerial meeting between the Oil Ministers of Bangladesh, Myanmar and India. In pursuance of the trilateral Joint Press Statement released after that meeting, a Techno-Commercial Working Committee (TCWC) of the representatives of the three countries was constituted. The first meeting of the TCWC was held in Yangon on 24th – 25th February, 2005. The TCWC prepared a draft MoU to be signed by the three oil Ministers after the approval of their respective Governments. However, the approval of the MoU has been delayed on account of differences between India and Bangladesh over one preambular paragraph in the draft MoU. Minister (P&NG) visited Dhaka on 5th September, 2005 to discuss issues relating to the draft MoU. These issues continue to be under the consideration of the Governments of Bangladesh and India even as India explores with Myanmar other options of importing natural gas into India from Myanmar. An onshore pipeline through North East Indian territory is one of the options for the transportation of natural gas from Myanmar to India. No final decision has been taken as yet and the details of various options are being worked out.