

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1355

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006

INDO- IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal; Rawale Shri Mohan; Rawat Shri Bachi Singh; Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao; Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.; Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

(a) whether the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has held any discussions with the President of Iran recently on the Indo-Iran gas pipeline issue and the import of liquefied natural gas;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far on Indo-Iran gas pipeline project?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): Minister (P&NG) had a meeting with President of Islamic Republic of Iran on 15.6.2006 at Shanghai, China on the side lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In the meeting, he raised the issue of delay in the implementation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) contract signed by Indian companies with the National Iranian Gas Export Company in June 2005 for import of LNG from Iran. The Iranian President agreed to refer the matter to Parliamentary Committee in Iran for consideration.

(c): The Government is discussing the details of the IPI Project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate, bilateral Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs) were constituted to have discussions with the Iranian and Pakistan sides. So far, three meetings each of these working groups have been held. Various technical, commercial, financial, legal and related issues were discussed at these meetings. As of now, various issues relating to the Project are being discussed among the three countries at the tripartite Secretary level Working Group Meetings. So far two such meetings have been held. The third meeting is scheduled to be held during 3-4 August, 2006 at New Delhi.

The main issues under discussion include those relating to gas pricing and project structure.