

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:137

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004

GAS PIPE LINE FROM IRAN

Jagannath Dr. M.;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether Ministry of External Affairs has directed the Ministry of Petroleum to start talks with Pakistan on the proposed Iran-India natural gas pipeline;
- (b) whether action plan to lay a gas pipeline from Iran to India has been fully prepared;
- (c) if so, whether the Government had already conveyed to Pakistan about this proposal;
- (d) if so, whether all the problems faced in implementing this project have been cleared;
- (e) whether Japan has shown its willingness to fund Iran-India gas pipeline through Pakistan;
- (f) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be take;
- (g) whether all the concerned countries viz Iran-Pakistan-India, have agreed to implement this project immediately; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.137 BY SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN & DR.M. JAGANNATH, MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING GAS PIPE LINE FROM IRAN.

(a) to (d): To meet the large deficit between demand and supply of natural gas in the country, as projected in Hydrocarbon Vision-2025, and for enhancing the energy security of the country in keeping with the provisions of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, a trans-national onland pipeline from Iran to India transiting through Pakistan is one of the viable options. The matter was recently discussed at the highest level between the two countries and it was decided to pursue the Iran-India natural gas pipeline via Pakistan in the context of overall bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The discussions in this regard are continuing. This project would basically be a commercial project supported by appropriate guarantees for security of supplies. A meeting of the Petroleum/Gas Ministers of the two countries is envisaged in this regard. The Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural gas held a conversation without commitment in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart on 5-6th December 2004. The issue was also touched upon during the Minister's call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 24.11.2004.

(e) to (h): As the proposal is at a preliminary stage, these details have not been worked out.