

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004

PETRO SECY. DELEGATION TO TEHRAN

Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether Indian delegation visited Tehran to finalise a gas for oilfield deal with Iran;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total quantity of petroleum products likely to be purchased by India from Iran; and
- (d) the time by which the supply is likely to be started?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 27th January, 2003 between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Iran for furthering cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Under the provisions of this MoU, a joint working group (JWG) has been constituted to follow up and monitor the progress of cooperation. The minutes of the first meeting of JWG held in May 2003 provide for a package of cooperation. The main focus of the package consists of export of 5 MMTPA of LNG from Iran to India and Iran agreeing to negotiate awarding a significant sized discovered Iranian oilfield and a semi-discovered Iranian oilfield to an Indian PSU like ONGC Videsh Limited subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

During the visit of the Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India to Tehran on November 23-24, 2004, the progress of finalization of details in respect of the aforesaid package was reviewed. The subject was also discussed at Ministerial level when the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Tehran on 5-6th December, 2004. Negotiations are continuing. Finalisation of the agreement for our purchase of gas and investment in oilfields will be subject to mutually acceptable commercial terms.