

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:533
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and China have recently agreed for cooperation in oil and gas sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a task force has been set up to identify specific areas where both the countries can collaborate in the hydrocarbons sectors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Looking to the vast possibilities in forging alliances with Chinese oil companies in seeking acreages in third countries and bilateral cooperation in other areas of the hydrocarbon sector, the national oil companies of India and China keep in touch with each other on a case to case basis. Although, no agreement has been signed between India and China in the area of cooperation in hydrocarbons, a joint Task Force of the Ministers of External Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas has been established to examine the prospects for Sino-Indian cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector.