

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2284
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
FIFTH INDO-KAZAKH JOINT COMMISSION MEETING
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether he visited Kazakhstan to attend the Fifth Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission meeting held recently; and
- (b) if so, the issues discussed and how many of the points raised by India have been agreed to in the meeting and to what extent Kazakhstan has agreed to help India in the Oil Sector?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): In the 5th Session of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade-Economic Scientific-Technology, Industry and Cultural cooperation held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 17-18 February, 2005, both sides noted the progress and positive dynamics of the increase in bilateral cooperation in various fields and agreed to provide necessary support for further strengthening the relationship.

In the area of oil and gas, the following points emerged:-

1. The Kazakh side invited Indian oil and gas companies to participate in tenders for onland E&P Projects.
2. ONGC Videsh Ltd. and Kazmunaigaz, the national oil company of Kazakhstan, entered into an MOU to jointly study opportunities in Kazakhstan and identify a suitable project and negotiate with the Government of Kazakhstan for joint participation.
3. The Indian and Kazakh side agreed to form a Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons under the aegis of the Joint Commission. The Working Group would examine and develop various concepts for joint participation, including oil and gas evacuation and transportation facilities within Kazakhstan and across the border to other countries, gas processing plants, petrochemical industries, various service activities like seismic surveys, exploratory drilling, development of fields, R&D and training.