

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2328  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005  
INDO-RUSSIA AGREEMENT IN OIL SECTOR  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether he visited Moscow recently to press ONGC's case for acquiring the main unit of Yukos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Russia in the Oil Sector; and
- (d) if so, the salient features thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): During the visit of Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to Moscow on 21-22 February, 2005, discussions were held at the ministerial, official and commercial levels about possible areas of collaboration between the two countries in the hydrocarbon sector, including the possibility of OVL's acquiring a stake in Yuganskneftgas, the main subsidiary of Yukos, now with Rosneft, the national oil company of Russia. The response has been encouraging.

(c) & (d): Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gazprom, in which the Russian Government have a large interest, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which envisages joint participation of Gazprom and OVL in oil and gas sectors in Russia and third countries and also of Gazprom and ONGC in India.

A Strategic Cooperation Agreement was signed between GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Gazprom on 3.12.2004. In terms of this agreement, the parties would evaluate various opportunities, with a special focus on the gas sector in India, Russia and other countries, and develop projects for implementation.