

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2393
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
INDIA-IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Iran and Pakistan have recently signed an agreement on gas pipeline project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether India has been a party to Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for keeping India out of the agreement; and
- (e) the present status of the said project?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) According to official statements and media accounts, the Presidents of Pakistan and Iran signed the Inter-Governmental Framework Declaration (IGFD) on a natural gas pipeline project at Tehran on May 24, 2009 on the sidelines of a Trilateral Summit between Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Inter-Governmental Framework Declaration (IGFD) signed on May 24, 2009 is a bilateral agreement between Iran and Pakistan.

(e) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, assured supplies and security of the pipeline, transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan etc., are involved in the discussions between participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid problems in the future for the successful operation of the pipeline.