

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:217
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2010
IMPORT OF GAS
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to appoint Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and South Asia Gas Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (SAGE) as the nodal and the executive agencies respectively to pursue sub-sea pipeline projects to import gas from Iran and Qatar;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has examined the viability of similar projects executed by Russia, Turkey, Libya and Italy respectively;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has decided to shelve the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline project;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any indication that Iran may be exploring the possibility of partnering with China rather than India on this project;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of the Government on the reported statement of the Chinese Foreign Minister regarding Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline project?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 217 ASKED BY SHRI MANISH TEWARI, MP TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th MARCH, 2010 REGARDING IMPORT OF GAS

(a) to (c): In recent years, there have been significant technological advancements in the field of Deep Sea Gas transportation technology. Accordingly, for the last few years, interest has been revived in deep sea gas pipeline route from Middle-East to India. Gas supplies from several gas rich countries of Middle East through Gas Gathering pipeline with hub in Oman (or its proximity) have been proposed, so as to supply gas to Indian Coast through the said Deep Sea Pipeline. GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Principles of Cooperation in the month of July 2009 for developing the pipeline Project and the proposal is at an initial stage.

(d) & (e): No Madam. India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(f), (g) & (h): Government is only aware of press reports quoting Iranian officials as stating that Iran would welcome participation of China in the gag pipelines Project.