

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1768

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2009

SUPPLY OF OIL TO INDIA

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received afresh proposal from Turkey for potentially viable alternative that could get Central Asian and Caucasian oil to India's doorstep;
- (b) if so, when and the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has examined such proposal;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): The Foreign Minister of Turkey, during his visit to India in February 2008, had outlined a proposal for cooperation between Turkey, Israel and India for transportation of crude oil from the Caspian region through the Mediterranean and Red Sea and into India. This project envisages transport of crude oil from Ceyhan port in Turkey to Ashkelon port in Israel in the Mediterranean Sea, initially through very large crude carriers (VLCCs) and eventually by laying a sub-sea pipeline. Thereafter, crude oil will be transported through the existing Ashkelon-Eilat pipeline in Israel to Eilat port on the Red Sea. From there, crude oil may be carried to India/ other parts of Asia. The project requires a detailed feasibility study to establish its techno- commercial viability.

(c) to (e): Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India has conveyed that Turkey and Israel may carry out the feasibility study at their end and once such report is available, participation from India in that project can be decided, based on the techno-commercial viability of the project.