

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:712
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether the Indo-Iran gas pipeline has been mired with disagreement over transportation and price determination issues;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Iran and Pakistan have invited China to enter into a partnership with them with regard to this project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the alternate arrangements made by the Government for supply of gas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 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, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, security of supply, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the 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 any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

(c) & (d): Government is only aware of press reports in local Iranian media indicating possibility of China joining the Project.

(e): A multi-pronged strategy has been adopted to augment gas supplies and to bridge the gap between supply & demand for the domestic market by intensification of domestic Exploration & Production activities including Coal Bed Methane, through import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) new technologies like Underground Coal Gasification & Natural Gas Hydrate Programme and import of natural gas through transnational gas pipelines. In addition to Iran, import of natural gas is also being pursued from Turkmenistan through Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.