

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:73
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
INDO IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) the status of the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether Iran has formally signed a 7.6 billion dollar cross border pipeline deal with Pakistan ignoring India that was a part of the original plan conceived in the 1990;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the manner in which the interest of India is proposed to be protected;and
- (e) the Government's stand on the tri-nation pipeline deal?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 73 ASKED BY SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSHI LAKSHMI AND SHRI P. LINGAM, MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2010 REGARDING INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

(a) to (e): 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, 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.

According to media reports, Heads of Agreement (HoA) and Operational Agreement that would pave the way for construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan have been signed between Iran & Pakistan in March 2010. Under the agreement, Iran is to supply 750 million cubic feet gas per day from its South Pars field to Pakistan for 25 years beginning 2015. Subsequently, both the countries signed the sovereign guarantee agreement in May 2010 in Islamabad. Media reports further indicated that the HoA contains provision for transporting Indian gas volume through the Pakistani territory if and when India decides to join the project.

India is in discussion with Iran regarding the gas pipeline project and as and when the issues are satisfactorily resolved, India can join the Project.