

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:318

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012

SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM TO PAKISTAN

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Semmalai Shri S. ;Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether Pakistan has approached India for supply of petroleum products to meet its requirements;
- (b) if so, the details of the negotiations between India and Pakistan in this regard;
- (c) whether a joint working group on petrol and petroleum products has been set up between India and Pakistan and the two countries have decided to explore possibilities of opening new routes in Rajasthan and use the present railway and land routes for transportation of petroleum products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to construct pipelines connecting India and Pakistan for transportation of petroleum products; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the amount earmarked for the said project and likely the time-frame for completion of this project?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) to (d). Pursuant to the decisions taken in the 5th Round of Talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad on 27-28 April 2011, a 'Group of Experts' to Expand Trade in Petroleum Products between India and Pakistan' was constituted.

The objective of the Experts' Group was to initiate and substantially expand trade in all types of petroleum products between the two countries. The group would inter-alia discuss the trade arrangements, building of cross border pipelines and use of road/ rail route, including the Munabao- Khokrapar route.

The First Meeting of the Experts' Group on Trade in Petroleum & Petrochemical Products between India and Pakistan was held on 17-18 July, 2012 at New Delhi. Both sides agreed to take up infrastructure and logistics related issues with their respective authorities like Department of Posts, Railways, Finance, Home Affairs etc. in order to boost trade between the two countries.

It was recognized that in the current international scenario, trade in petroleum products between the two sides would have to be guided by the principles of commerciality and market considerations. It was agreed that commercial matters such as matching product specification requirements, pricing, other term and conditions of trade, participation in tenders etc. would be left to the commercial entities of both sides.

(e) and (f). At present, the Government does not have any specific proposal to construct pipelines connecting India and Pakistan for transportation of petroleum products. Such a proposal will first need to be studied from the angle of commercial viability between the commercial entities of the two sides.