

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009

MEDITERRANEAN PETROLEUM GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

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

- (a) whether India proposes to join Mediterranean petroleum and gas pipeline project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether national security advisor has in the recent past visited Ankara and discussed the project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the extent to which the petroleum requirement of the country will be fulfilled from this pipeline project; and
- (f) the details of the progress so far made in the Mediterranean pipeline project?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b) The Foreign Minister of Turkey during his visit to India in February 2008 suggested cooperation between Turkey, Israel and India for transportation of crude oil from the Caspian region via the Mediterranean Sea and onward to Red Sea and then to India. Briefly, 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. The pipeline would be about 500-600 km length and would be laid in sea at a depth varying from 200 to 2,000 meters. 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 proposal is in an early stage and requires a detailed feasibility study to establish its techno-commercial viability. There is no decision as yet when the detailed feasibility study of the project proposal will be carried out.

(c) & (d) Turkey raised the project proposal during the visit of National Security Advisor (NSA) to Ankara in July 2008. India has participated in two trilateral preparatory meetings held so far.

(e) From India's perspective, the purchase and quantum of crude oil from this proposed project will be on techno-commercial considerations.

(f) As at (a) & (b) above.