

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7027  
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2005  
ENERGY SECURITY  
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

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

- (a) whether the Government is exploring several options to expand the energy security options with the Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the details of talk held with Gulf countries in this regard; and
- (c) the further action taken thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Government is exploring several energy security options with Gulf countries including long-term contracts for crude oil, mutual investments in the oil and gas sector, the possibility of Saudi Arabia establishing commercial strategic storage in India, the import of natural gas as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), or through trans-national pipelines from gas rich regions such as West-Asia (including Iran), Myanmar and, possibly Turkmenistan and the acquisition of acreages abroad.

The issue was also discussed at the first Round Table of the Asian Ministers on regional cooperation in the oil and gas economy held in New Delhi on the 6th January, 2005 which was attended by Ministers/representatives from Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, China, Korea, besides host India. The chairman's draft conclusions of the conference is attached.