

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:325
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005
MEETING OF INDIA- IRAN JOINT WORKING GROUP
Rawale Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether in a recent meeting of the India – Iran Joint Working Group on the Iran – Pakistan – India gas pipeline, the Indian side expressed its willingness to join a consortium involving Iran and Pakistan to build the pipeline;
- (b) if so, whether it is a departure from its earlier stand that it would take delivery of gas at India's border; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): During the second meeting of Iran-India Special Joint Working Group (SJWG) held in Tehran on 24th October, 2005, the Indian side made a power-point presentation on the different possible options in regard to the structure of the Iran – Pakistan – India (IPI) project based on international practice. The Iranian and Pakistani sides are also likely to suggest various alternatives relating to project structure. A final position relating to the structure of the project will emerge on the basis of the consensual view of the three countries concerned.

The Indian position in this regard will be finalized only after due consideration of all options and the approval of the authorities concerned in the Government of India. As of now, the formal position remains that India will take delivery of Iranian gas at the India – Pakistan border.