

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1392  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005  
TURKMENISTAN -AFGHANISTAN -PAKISTAN GAS PIPELINE  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether a team of officials of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) recently visited Uzbekistan to assess the feasibility of 1680 km Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline and its onward transmission to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) whether any Consultant has been appointed by GAIL for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether this issue came up for discussion during Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister's recent visit to Pakistan to discuss Indo-Iran pipeline project; and
- (f) if so, the final stand taken by GAIL on TAP pipeline project?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): No, Sir. No GAIL team has visited Uzbekistan to assess the feasibility of the TAP gas pipeline and its onward transmission to India. Under its present configuration, the TAP pipeline does not pass through Uzbekistan. GAIL has not appointed any consultants for studying this project.

(e) & (f): During the visit of Minister (P&NG) to Pakistan in June 2005, Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources provided Minister (P&NG) with details of the TAP project in which the Indian side expressed interest. Minister(P&NG) confirmed that he would respond positively to an invitation to attend the next Steering Committee Meeting as an Observer. India has been invited to participate in the next Ministerial Steering Committee meeting of the project, scheduled to be held in Ashgabat.