

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3417
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005
SHORTAGE OF LNG
Oram Shri Jual

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

- (a) whether there is a severe scarcity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the country;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to meet the demand of LNG;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the import of LNG; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The existing demand for gas in the country is being met by a combination of domestic gas produced in the country and imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). Against an estimated demand of around 150 MMSCMD, the total availability is around 93 MMSCMD, including around 18 MMSCMD of regasified LNG. Imports of LNG are under OGL and companies have set up or are setting up, LNG import facilities on commercial considerations.

At present, there are two LNG terminals in the country. M/s. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) have commissioned a 5 MMTPA (million metric tonne per annum) LNG terminal at Dahej, Gujarat in April, 2004. M/s. Shell have commissioned a 2.5 MMTPA LNG terminal at Hazira, Gujarat in April, 2005.

Ratnagiri LNG terminal in Maharashtra is likely to be commissioned in 2006. PLL have also initiated action for setting up an LNG terminal at Kochi, Kerala, which is likely to be commissioned in the last quarter of 2009. PLL is expanding the capacity of Dahej LNG terminal from 5 MMTPA to 10 MMTPA. IOC and ONGC are planning LNG terminals at Ennore, Tamilnadu and Mangalore, Karnataka respectively.

PLL have contracted 7.5 MMTPA LNG from Rasgas in Qatar. Out of this, 5 MMTPA LNG is being imported at the Dahej terminal, with the balance quantity of 2.5 MMTPA likely to be available in 2009. GAIL (India) Limited / Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)/ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have signed a Sales Purchase Agreement with National Iranian Gas Export Co. Ltd. (NIGEC) in June, 2005 for the import of 5 MMTPA LNG from Iran, beginning from the last quarter of 2009.