

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4367  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005  
ASIAN GAS GRID  
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any study on Asia Gas Grid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from some foreign countries for joining in such studies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): The idea of an `Asian Gas Grid` linking the North and Central Asian and Gulf natural gas producing countries with the consuming countries of Asia was first proposed by the Minister (P&NG) at the Third Asian Gas Buyers` Summit in New Delhi, on February 14-15, 2005.

This proposal was given concrete shape at a presentation made by an international financial consultant at the Ministerial Round Table of North and Central Asian Oil Producers in dialogue with principal Asian consumers in New Delhi on 25 November, 2005. The participants at the Round Table were informed that the Asian Gas Grid proposal was a practical proposition. It would require the setting up of gas pipelines across the Asian Continent extending over 22, 000 km, at an approximate cost of US dollars 22 billion.

At the Round Table a consensual view emerged that `the possibility and feasibility of promoting and developing gas and oil interconnections through LNG and through trans-national oil & gas pipelines within the Asian region` should be studied. This study `could include the exploration of all alternative linkages by land and sea throughout Asia, including alternatives of linking the Caspian basin to countries in South Asia.`

It was agreed that India, in association with Republic of Korea and other participating countries, would set up a Working Group to prepare the Master Plan to pursue these proposals, including the setting up of an Asian Gas Grid Institute which would monitor, guide and support the proposal. The time required for the implementation of the proposal would be known after the proposed studies have been completed.