

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:528
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
INDO-BANGLADESH- MYANMAR GAS PIPELINE
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of India-Bangladesh-Myanmar gas pipeline project; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): In January 2005, the then Minister (P&NG) participated in a meeting in Yangon between the Oil Ministers of Bangladesh, Myanmar and India to discuss various aspects of the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline project. In pursuance of the trilateral Joint Press Statement released after that meeting, a Techno-Commercial Working Committee (TCWC) of the representatives of the three countries was constituted to take further steps in respect of the project. The first meeting of the TCWC was held in Yangon on 24th - 25th February, 2005. The TCWC prepared a draft MoU to be signed by the three Oil Ministers after the approval of their respective Governments. However, it has not been possible to sign this MoU so far on account of differences between India and Bangladesh over one preambular paragraph in the draft MoU in which Bangladesh has made references to some of its bilateral issues with India, which are not related to the project. An alternative pipeline route through the north eastern territory of India, thereby bypassing Bangladesh, is being explored and discussions with Myanmar side for importing their gas are continuing.