

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4416
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
INDO- IRAN GAS PIPELINE
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether Russia has expressed its willingness to set up Indo-Iran gas pipeline;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to(d): In a recent meeting between the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Minister for Industry and Energy of Russia, in New Delhi, on 24.11.2005, the Russian Minister said that the Russian national gas company, Gazprom, was prepared to participate in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project as an investor or as a contractor; the Russian Minister conveyed that the former role was the preferred option for Gazprom.

The Government is discussing the details of the project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz., India - Pakistan JWG, and India - Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose.

Gazprom's offer to join the project will be considered when the structure of the proposed project has been agreed to between the three principal participating countries.