

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1336
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY BANK
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Technology bank for oil and gas industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

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

(a) to (c):- During the Brain-storming Session on R&D issues in upstream sector held on 2nd March, 2005, organized by Petrofed and DGH, it was decided to set up National Technology Bank (NTB). A Working Group has been constituted to work out the modalities for setting up the centre in consultation with the industry (private as well as NOCs) and academia. The action plan has been prepared and information about offshore technology has been collected through Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) held at Houston. Presently, the data is being loaded on the data base. No specific time frame can be assigned for operationalisation of the National Technology Bank.

ANNEX

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1260 BY SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2006 REGARDING `FOREIGN VISITS OF THEN MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS.`

Sr.No Country visited and Period Objectives of the visits and the successes achieved

- 1 Austria September, 2004 Minister (PNG) was invited by OPEC to deliver a lecture at their Seminar in Vienna. The Minister was able to put across India's concerns relating to high petroleum prices; he also promoted the need for dialogue and cooperation between producer and consumer countries.
- 2 Russia October, 2004 Minister visited Russia to attend the 4th Oil & Gas Week Conference in Moscow. The visit also facilitated finalisation of the MOU between the Skotchinsky Institute and ONGC on cooperation in the area of underground coal gasification with a view to enhancing India's resource base. Again, discussions were held by the Minister with his counterpart on the possibilities of getting Central Asian oil & gas to India through transnational pipelines.
3. Sri Lanka, Iran December, 2004 Minister discussed with the Sri Lankan Government, including the President and senior Ministers issues pertaining to India's joint venture i.e. Sri Lanka-IOC (LIOC). Minister then went to Iran to discuss the contract for supply of 5 million tonnes of LNG to India.
4. Myanmar January, 2005 The Minister visited Yangon to hold discussions

with his counterpart Ministers from Myanmar and Bangladesh on the Myanmar-India Gas Pipeline. A tripartite Joint Press Statement was issued during the visit, which constitutes the basis of Government-to-Government discussions on this project.

5. UK, USA, Canada, Russia and During this period, Minister led delegations to the Holland January - March, 2005 `roadshows` organised by the Ministry in these countries for the promotion of the NELP-V Round. This Round attracted 26 offers from foreign companies, exceeding the total number of offers received from foreign companies in the previous four Rounds.
6. Kazakhstan February, 2005 Minister visited Astana in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission: a number of issues pertaining to bilateral economic relations were discussed, including co-operation between OVL and Kazmunigas for exploration blocks to OVL for study, the North South Energy Corridor and matters of bilateral interest to other Ministries as per the Agenda of the Joint Commission.
7. Saudi Arabia, March, 2005 Minister discussed various aspects of Indo-Saud Cooperation in the Hydrocarbons Sector with his Saudi counterpart. The two Ministers agreed on the participation of Saudi and Indian companies in downstream projects in each others` countries. The Saudi side invited Indian companies to participate in Saudi Arabia`s upstream gas sector. The Minister also addressed the International Energy Forum.
8. Pakistan, Azerbaijan & Minister visited Pakistan and Iran for consultations Iran : June, 2005 with his counterpart Ministers in the two countries on the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Pipeline Project. During these visits, it was agreed that two bilateral Joint Working Groups would be set up at officials` level to pursue cooperation in the IPI Project. Minister also visited Baku (Azerbaijan) initiate Government-to-Government negotiations to establish longterm contracts for Caspian crude, which would be available in the Mediterranean Sea with the commissioning of the BTC Pipeline. Minister also addressed the Caspian Oil & Gas Conference.
9. Turkey and Romania: The Minister visited Turkey at the invitation of his June - July, 2005 counterpart and also delivered the keynote address at the CERA Oil & Gas Conference co-sponsored by the Turkish Government at Istanbul. The two Ministers agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbon Cooperation. [The visit led to the signing of an MOU with Turkey for cooperation during the return visit of the Turkish Minister in November 2005.] The Minister visited Romania at the invitation of his counterpart and signed an inter-Governmental MOU on Cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Several other MOUs between organisations and companies of the two sides were also signed during the visit.
10. Norway, Iceland and The Minister visited Norway at the invitation of his Bangladesh Aug -Sept, 2005. counterpart to discuss cooperation between the two countries. Norway is a major oil exporter and a world leader in deepsea drilling. A meeting of the Joint Working Group in the Hydrocarbon Sector also took place during the visit. The Minister visited Iceland to pursue cooperation in hydrogen fuel technology. The Minister also paid a one-day visit to Bangladesh to discuss the Myanmar-India Pipeline. During this visit, he met the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, and had substantial delegation-level discussions with the Energy Adviser

to the Prime Minister.

11. Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan and The Minister visited Sakhalin (Russia) to participate Republic of Korea September, in the `First Oil` function in the project, in 2005 which ONGC is a stakeholder. He also had discussions

with the Russian Energy Minister on the Agenda of the Round Table of North and Central Asian Oil Ministers scheduled to be held in New Delhi, in November 2005.

He visited Japan and Republic of Korea briefly during this tour and held consultations with his counterpart Ministers on a wide range of issues, including followup the decisions of the Asian Oil Ministers` Round Table held in January 2005 and preparations for the North and Central Asian Oil Ministers` Round Table held in New Delhi, in November 2005. Several matters of bilateral interest were pursued in regard to R&D and technology cooperation, energy conservation, storage, etc.

He also visited Kazakhstan to deliver the key-note address at the Kazakh Oil & Gas Conference, KIOGE, 2005.

12. Saudi Arabia & Qatar In Saudi Arabia, the Minister attended the November, 2005 inauguration of the Secretariat building of the

International Energy Forum in Riyadh. He chaired the Inaugural Session of the event where he projected India`s perspectives on the global and regional energy dialogue.

In Qatar, the Minister addressed the International Petroleum Technology Conference. He also had substantial bilateral discussions with his counterpart Minister on LNG supplies to India.

13. China January, 2006 The Minister visited China at the invitation of his counterpart, the Chairman of the National Development & Reforms Commission (NDRC). During this visit, an inter-Governmental MOU on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector and several other MOUs between Indian and Chinese organizations/companies were signed. This visit laid the foundation of a substantial, long-term bilateral cooperation in different areas of the Hydrocarbon sector, including joint bids for assets in third countries, and cooperation in regard to R&D, technology, storage, conservation and promotion of environment friendly fuels.