

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3032
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
STAKE IN PAKISTANI GAS COMPANY
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

- (a) whether two Indian Public Sector oil and gas companies are in the hunt to acquire a strategic stake in one of the biggest gas companies in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Pakistan is going through the process of privatization of its two gas companies, namely, (i) Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) and (ii) Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGL). Initially, IOC & GAIL had expressed interest in participating in this process. Subsequently, when GAIL sought some details on the procedure for submission of Statement of Qualification from the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan, the Privatisation Commission, Government of Pakistan, replied on 20th February, 2006 expressing regret in acceding to GAIL's request to participate in the subject privatizations. No specific reason was given by them for not permitting GAIL to participate in the privatization process. In view of the above, GAIL and IOC did not pursue this opportunity.
- (c): Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.