

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1365

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007

PAN ASIAN GAS PIPELINE

Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether there is a proposal before the Government to participate in a multinational, Pan-Asian gas pipeline to carry the natural gas from Central Asian countries including Iran and Tajakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any feasibility study has been made regarding the proposed Trans Asian gas pipeline project;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the present status of the project?

Answer

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

(a)to(e) : Government is not pursuing any Pan-Asian gas pipeline from Central Asia and Tajakistan. However, Government is pursuing import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline and from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline. With regard to TAP gas pipeline project, an Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on February 14-15, 2006 to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of TAP project as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. Government accorded 'in principle' approval to India joining the TAP project. The matter has been taken up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the lead development partner for the project, to appropriately take up India's request for joining the project with the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Regarding IPI gas pipeline project, the 4th Tripartite Joint Working Group meeting of IPI Gas Pipeline Project between the three countries was held in Tehran, Iran on January 24-25, 2007. A gas price formula regarding pricing of gas at Iran-Pakistan border was agreed between Iran and Pakistan side, subject to approval from the respective Governments. The Indian side agreed to respond to the price formula within a period of four weeks. Subsequently, an Indian delegation participated in the 4th bilateral Working Group meeting with Pakistan on February 22-23, 2007 to discuss issues relating to transit of IPI Pipeline through Pakistan. Iran attended the meeting as an Observer. The issues pertaining to transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan were discussed in the meeting.