

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
ENERGY SECURITY
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

:

- (a) whether main hurdle before the Government is energy security;
- (b) if so, whether Government is exploring several options to expand energy security options with many countries particularly gulf countries and neighbouring countries;
- (c) if so, the details of the talks held with gulf countries in this regard;
- (d) whether a road map discussed and round table conference held so far in regard to fulfillment of energy needs of the country have been fruitful;
- (e) if so, the negotiations at present going on with the countries to meet the energy requirement of the country; and
- (f) the further steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government is exploring several energy security options with Gulf countries including long-term contracts for crude oil, mutual investments in the oil and gas sector, the possibility of Asian countries establishing commercial strategic storage in India, the import of natural gas as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), or through trans-national pipelines from gas rich regions such as West-Asia (including Iran), Myanmar and, possibly Turkmenistan and the acquisition of acreages abroad.

The issue was earlier discussed at the first Round Table of the Asian Ministers on regional cooperation in the oil and gas economy held in New Delhi on the 6th January, 2005 which was attended by Ministers/ representatives from Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, China, Korea, besides host India. The next round table is being hosted by Saudi Arabia in May 2007.

Further during the five countries Energy Roundtable held on 16th December 2006 at Beijing, China, the Minister (P&NG) in his keynote address had called for cooperation at three levels amongst consumer countries to identify issues and suggest remedial measures. He had also stated that developing Asian countries should seriously consider building strategic storage of oil. It is for the consuming nations like China, India, Japan and Korea to ponder whether individual and collective efforts are necessary to have dialogue with exporters to address the issue of pricing. In the joint statement of 5 union Energy Ministers released at the conclusion of the Roundtable, a call was made on all countries of the international community to enhance global energy security through the following measures :

- i. Open, transparent, efficient and competitive energy markets to encourage investment in the whole energy supply chain, especially in oil and gas exploration and production, including transparent and effective legal and regulatory frameworks.
- ii. Diversification of energy supply and demand and energy sources.
- iii. Promotion of energy conservation and energy efficiency measures as well as development and deployment of environmentally sustainable energy technologies.
- iv. Cooperative energy emergency response through strategic oil stocks.
- v. Safeguarding critical energy infrastructure and sea route security for transportation of oil and gas.
- vi. Improved quality and timeliness of energy data made available to the market.