

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004  
PRICES OF CRUDE IMPORTED FROM MIDDLE EAST  
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether India has joined Japan, China and Korea aggressively to bring down prices of crude oil imported from middle east;
- (b) if so, to what extent all these countries have been able to impress upon these middle east countries to bring down prices of imported crude oil; and
- (c) the decision taken by Govt. in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Indian Oil PSUs purchase crude oil from the National Oil Companies of West Asian countries as per the term contracts. The pricing is at Official Selling Price, which is uniformly applicable for all Asia Pacific Customers.

The Government is not involved in contract negotiations with West Asian Governments. However, due to high oil prices and their ramifications for developing economies, attempts have been made to redress the issue of high Asian prices by raising these issues in relevant international forums as well as during bilateral meetings with West Asian exporting countries during international oil conferences / forums.

The principal Asian suppliers and purchasers of oil have been invited to a meeting being convened in New Delhi on 6th January, 2005 jointly by India, Kuwait and the International Energy Forum.