

Completion of Iran-India Gas Pipeline Project

112. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Iran-India gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether certain factors are impeding its timely completion; and
- (c) if so, what are the details in this regard and efforts made to ensure timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran, (i) through a deep sea natural gas pipeline (ii) through an onland pipeline *via* Pakistan and or (iii) as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Imports through an onland natural gas pipeline *via* Pakistan is considered a feasible economic option. The total length of the pipeline would be about 1900 km upto the Indian border, of which 1100 Km would lie in Iran and 800 km in Pakistan. The project could be tentatively completed by 2010-2011 subject to resolution of various issues.

(b) and (c) Security of gas supplies through Pakistan territory is a major concern in the development of Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. In addition, issues such as pipeline route and offtake location, delivered gas price and quality, transit fee, appropriate sovereign guarantees etc., are the other important issues which need to be resolved. The Minister visited Tehran on 5-6 December, 2004 when issues relating to a possible pipeline were flagged. The matter was further discussed with the Iranian Minister on the sidelines of the Asian Oil Ministers' Meet held at New Delhi in 6th January, 2005. After Cabinet clearance on 9 February, 2005, techno-commercial discussions were initiated on the margins of the 3rd Asian Gas Buyers Summit held at New Delhi on 14-15 February, 2005 and are scheduled to be resumed in Tehran on 5 March, 2005.

Decisions taken at the Conference of Asian Oil Ministers

113. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a first-ever round table conference of Asian Oil Ministers