

**Discussions on Iran-India Gas pipeline project**

95. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that he discussed the long pending India-Iran gas pipeline project with the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his recent visit; and
- (b) if so, what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit to India by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shri Shaukat Aziz on November 24-25, 2004, the importance of availability and access to the energy resources in the region around South Asia was recognized and the issue of import of natural gas from Iran to India on-land via Pakistan was discussed. While the Minister's discussion with the Prime Minister of Pakistan was limited to a review of the general hydrocarbons situation in each country, and the issues of bilateral cooperation were touched upon. It is now proposed to hold bilateral discussion between the Petroleum Ministers of the two countries in pursuance of the agreement between the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 6 September, 2004 and subsequent developments in this regard.

**Deal for supply of gas from Myanmar**

96. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have concluded a deal with Myanmar for supply of gas to India;
- (b) whether a pipeline is needed to bring this gas to India;
- (c) whether Bangladesh has given transit rights for this pipeline;
- (d) if so, the details of the entire deal including cost of pipelines, and other fiscal benefits to Bangladesh;
- (e) whether this deal is worth in the long run to India; and
- (f) if so, the gains from this pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Recently, a delegation visited Myanmar to participate in a trilateral summit of oil Ministers of Myanmar, Bangladesh and India to discuss cooperation in hydrocarbon sector with Myanmar and the import of natural gas from Myanmar through an onland pipeline via