

KALPNATHRAI: (a) to (c). The proposal for installation of Gandhar Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project (615MW) by the Gujarat State, in the State Sector, was techno-economically approved by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in October, 1989, on base load basis, at an estimated cost of Rs. 573.73 Crores, subject to confirmation of 2.25 MCMD of gas by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The total quantity of gas available from the Gandhar gas-fields for power generation, keeping in view the commitments already made, is of the order of about 3 MCMD. The Government of India have, in consultation with the State of Gujarat, decided in January, 1992 that the available gas be utilised for setting up of two power projects—one in the Central Sector by the National Thermal Power Corporation and other in the State Sector by the Gujarat authorities by utilising 1.5 MCMD of gas in each of these power stations. This linkage of 1.5 MCMD of gas would enable the stations to operate on variable load basis. The Gandhar CCGT project proposed to be set up in the State Sector is required to be re-appraised by the CEA to enable it to operate on variable load basis with reference to gas linkage of 1.5 MCMD and the need for updating the cost estimates to bring them to a realistic level. Both the CEA and the Gujarat State Govt. have been advised to take necessary action in this regard. The State Sector project of Gujarat could be considered for sanction only after it has received techno-economic approval as aforesaid.

It has also been decided by the Government in January '92 that if any additional gas becomes available at the Gandhar Gas fields it should be allocated to the NTPC's power project and the Gujarat Government's power project at Gandhar to take their allocation to 2.25 MCMD so that they could operate as base load stations.

Leasing out to Lakshadweep Islands

4087. **SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV:**

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lease out two islands falling within Lakshadweep to private parties for the Development of tourism;

(b) if so, the criteria proposed to be adopted for this purpose; and

(c) the tourist traffic anticipated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). It is proposed to give two islands namely Thinakkara and Cheryyam with an area of approximately 41.8 hect. and 45.5 hect. respectively on long term lease for development of tourism resorts based on international competitive officers. Offers will be considered in accordance with investment policy, environment regulations and other factors related to the need for development of tourism infrastructure and facilities in the country. The development of new island resorts will diversify and enrich the Indian tourism product and increase tourist traffic to the country.

[*Translation*]

Electronic Exchanges in Gujarat and Haryana

4088. **SHRI S.N. VEKARIA:**
SHRI AVATAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: