

Title: Need to issue necessary permission to use HSD for the smooth functioning of Thermal Power Plants in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Sir, despite local availability of natural resources, Thar districts are industrially backward. A large quantity of superior natural gas is available in Jaisalmer district. To meet the power requirement of the area, two gas-based thermal power projects were installed during 1994 and 1996. The first thermal power project is closed due to low calorific value of gas supplied by GAIL. A project report for 160 MW capacity costing Rs. 550 crore was prepared of which 1x35.5 MW has already been installed under Phase-II. The remaining generating units are proposed to be installed after commitment of additional 10 lakh M3/day gas from GAIL. An additional requirement has already been registered with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during June, 1997.

Government of Rajasthan has earmarked Rs. 45 crore for provisioning of one more 35.5 MW power plant based on gas and HSD. This project is held up for want of good quality gas and permission to use HSD in case sufficient and good quality gas is not available at Ramgarh, district Jaisalmer. Proposal to this effect for setting up of Power Project Stage-III is sent to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. I request that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas should take necessary action to provide gas of good quality from other gas wells at Ramgarh and also issue necessary permission to use HSD in case there is a shortage of gas.