

**Title:** Need for early clearance of power projects of Rajasthan, particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of the State.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Sir, this is in connection with shortage of power supply to Rajasthan as a whole and to Barmer and Jaisalmer districts in particular.

There is an overall acute shortage of power in Rajasthan. To meet the shortfall which is about 50 per cent, electricity is being purchased from Punjab. There are four projects which are pending with a total capacity of about 2,000 MW, at different places and awaiting clearance from the Central Electricity Authority. Ramgarh CCGT stage II Project of 71 MW capacity is in my constituency, Barmer (Rajasthan). RSEB have submitted all the clarifications, as desired by the CEA, during March, 2000.

It is brought out here that smooth functioning of Project created under Phase I and II at Ramgarh are adversely affected due to poor quality of gas supplied by GAIL. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a nodal point can coordinate between GAIL, Oil India Limited and ONGC to supply higher quality gas and to improve linkage for Phase I and II. The Rajasthan Government have earmarked Rs. 45 crore for CCGT Stage II Project Ramgarh for provisioning one more 35.5 MW power plant based on gas and HSD. This project is held up for want of good quality of gas and permission to use HSD in case sufficient and good quality gas is not available at Ramgarh.

Barmer and Jaisalmer districts are in the grip of severe drought for the third consecutive year. There is acute shortage of drinking water and the area is devoid of employment opportunities.

Therefore, I request the Government for early clearance of this Project. This will go a long way to augment the acute shortage of power besides generating some employment opportunities in this drought prone backward desert area.