

Title: Need to supply higher quality of natural gas to power units in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan-laid.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Sir, I represent underdeveloped, backward, desert districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer of Rajasthan besides one segment of Jodhpur. The fact that despite local availability of natural resources, like gas & oil fields, steel grade lime, gypsum lignite, marble etc., these districts are industrially backward. You may be aware, Sir, that large quantity of superior quality natural gas is available in Jaisalmer district, especially at Ramgarh and Tanot. To meet the power requirement of the area, two gas-based thermal power projects (3 mw and 35.5 mw costing Rs. 19 crore and Rs. 160 crore respectively) were installed during 1994 and 1996. The first thermal power project is under closure due to low calorific value of gas supplied by the GAIL. The gas being supplied by the GAIL is of poor quality as a result power units are badly affected. A project report for 160 mw capacity gas turbine comprising 3x35.5 mw GT plus 1.35.5 mw steam turbine costing Rs. 555 crore was prepared of which 1x35.5 mw has already been installed under phase-II. Remaining generating units are proposed to be installed after commitment of additional 10 lakh M3/day gas from the GAIL. Additional requirement has already been registered with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas during June, 1997 after gas availability indications were given by the Oil India Limited. Funds requirement for extension project would be Rs. 350 crore.

In view of the facts mentioned above, smooth functioning of projects created under phase-I and II are affected due to poor quality of gas. Project Report prepared during 1992-93 costing about Rs. 550 crore has not yet been implemented.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to issue necessary directives to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to coordinate with the OIL, ONGC and GAIL to supply higher quality of natural gas. Gas wells with good quality are available at Tanot in its vicinity. The Ministry of Finance should also meet the requirement of funds (about Rs. 350 crore) for phase-II.