

**Diversification of its activities by ONGC**

91. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is exploring the option of diversification of its activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ONGC has signed any MoU for such diversified activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) From the national perspective of Energy Security, of which oil security is an essential component, ONGC remains committed to its core functions viz., the exploration and production of oil and gas. Diversification into other areas can only be supplemental to, and not at the cost of, concentration on its areas of core competence. While Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are exploring various options for diversification of their activities by forward and backward integration, and in this context have signed the following Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with various agencies, the projects envisaged therein are at a conceptual stage only:—

- (i) MOU with Gujarat Industrial Corporation Ltd. (GIDC) to create infrastructure facilities within the Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to facilitate setting up LNG based value addition projects.
- (ii) MOU with Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) & Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry towards development of a Coastal SEZ at Mangalore, Karnataka.
- (iii) MOU with Kakinada Seaports Ltd. (KSPL) & Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for the development of Port-Based SEZ at Kakinada.
- (iv) MOA with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for setting up a 750 MW combined cycle Gas Turbine power plant at Tripura in order to monetize its locked up assets in terms of isolated gas pools.