

Media Release

10th May 2005

BOC India records its highest ever operating profit *Company declares 15% dividend for the year 2004-05*

Kolkata, 10th May 2005: BOC India limited, a subsidiary of BOC Group Plc. has reported significant topline and bottomline growth for the year ended 31st March 2005.

The Company's turnover for the current year at Rs 4244 million registered a growth of 22%, compared to Rs 3472 million last year. While the Gases business continued to grow at a steady pace of 8%, the Project Engineering business posted a significant increase of 127% in turnover terms.

The Company delivered its highest ever operating profit of Rs 456 million after depreciation and interest but before extraordinary items, resulting in an increase of 125% over last year. Speaking on this occasion **Mr. ER Raj Narayanan, Managing Director BOC India Limited** said, "The Company has delivered its highest ever operating profit this year. This performance is attributed to increased operational efficiencies, improved market share in gases business coupled with strong performance by its Project Engineering Division".

The company has been able to significantly lower its interest cost on account of increased cash flows resulting in reduced borrowing during the year. This along with good working capital management has contributed to the overall growth in profits.

Profit before tax at Rs 475 million grew 8 % over last year. This inspite of the previous year's profits including an extraordinary profit from property sales of Rs 253 million compared to Rs 35 million in the year under review. Net profit after tax at Rs 280 million was 5 % below last year mainly due to higher deferred tax charge during the year.

The Board of Directors at a meeting held on 10th May 2005 have recommended a dividend of 15% for the year ending 31st March 2005 including a 70th year celebration dividend of 5%.

Company's industrial gases and medical gases business registered growth over last year. The company witnessed a surge in demand from the steel sector and significant increase in both volumes and price realisation from Gases business. The pharmaceutical and automobile industries, particularly in the Controlled Atmosphere Technology segment, also provided new opportunities for **BOC India**.

BOC India Limited is presently setting up an **Air Separation Unit** with an integrated liquifier for **Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited** at **Bellary, Karnataka**, pursuant to a long term agreement for supply of industrial gases with the steel major. **BOC India Limited** taking its strategy for Southern India forward, is also setting up another ASU at Hyderabad.

In its ISP business the company is currently in the process of introducing BOP across its locations in the country. As part of this exercise the Taloja and Bangalore sites have been commissioned earlier in the year. These plants bring together the best operating practices from **BOC Group** globally.

About BOC India Limited : **BOC India Limited (BOCI)** is the leader in gases business in India since 1935. Part of the \$ 6 billion **BOC Group Plc.** of UK, **BOC India** provides a one-stop solution to every sphere of gas and gas related business. **BOC India** has excelled through successfully blending local innovation and adaptation with international expertise from the Group. Be it for food processing, medical, domestic or industrial use, **BOC India** provides tailor made solutions for its customers. While providing the best solutions to its customers, **BOC India** has always conformed to the strictest international standards of production and safety.