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Title : Need to undertake excavation of gypsum reserves on the banks of river Chenab near Dharamkund in Jammu and Kashmir.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (UDHAMPUR): A huge stock of purest form of Gypsum spread over a belt of nearly 3 km long, 500 metre wide & 200 metre depth is existing in the lower contours of hills on the right bank of river Chenab near Dharamkund starting from upstream side of Dharamkund Bridge over river Chenab. This wide belt of Gypsum is also existing on the right bank of Chingi Nallah at lower contour between Dharmkund & Jangaldam. As per approximate estimates the market value of Gypsum, after working out the expenditure on extraction comes out to be more than Rs. 33,000/- crores. The market value of finished products which can be used for Plaster of Paris, medical purposes & other numerous requirements, is anticipated to be much more than the cost worked out as above. But, Government has not taken any interest to exploit this 'White Gold' reserve. The result may be that this huge stock of Gypsum worth crores of rupees which is mostly situated on the lower contours of Chenab Valley and its 90% of stock existing at lake formation level of under-construction Sawalakote Hydel Project may get submerged in the Sawalkote Dam Lake which is anticipated to come into existence within 6 years. The proposed year of completion of the Hydroelectric Project is 2014.