

[*Translation*]

Coal Reserves in Lakrikola Village in Banka

1938. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large quantity of coal reserves in Lakrikola village of Banka;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a survey of these places and arrange for coal mining there; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Setting up of a Salt Refinery and Solution Mining Project in H.P.

1939. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a 'Salt Refinery and Solution Mining Project' at Drang in Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and when the construction work thereon will begin?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, sir. The proposal concerns the exploitation of Mandi-Roack Salt Deposits at Drang by employing solution mining technology eventually to produce 33,000 tonnes per annum of high quality refined iodised salt of 99.9% purity in the salt refinery to be set up in second phase

at Drang, about 10 Kms north of Mandi (H.P.). The capital cost of the first phase of the project viz. Solution Mining, has been estimated at Rs. 3.03 crores (FE Rs. 82.9 lakhs). A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been released for preparatory work; the construction of the project is likely to commence during 1991-92.

[*English*]

Settlement of Claims of Bhopal Gas Victims

1940. SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Bhopal gas victims rally today" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 29th June, 1990;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to settle the claims of the victims without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government have seen the News item in question.

(b) In order to alleviate the immediate difficulties of the victims, Government have decided to pay an interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month per person for a period of 3 years. This will cover all the persons resident in the 36 severely affected municipal wards of Bhopal at the time of the Disaster and will be paid to minors and adults at the same rate. According to the information furnished by