

[*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

the Government of Madhya Pradesh, till 3.8.1990, 1,35,458 bank accounts have been opened in favour of the beneficiaries of the scheme.

(c) The compensation amount for the Bhopal Gas victims has not yet been finally decided as the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

DPEA Notices to Companies

1941. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue notices, under Drug Prices Equalisation Account to selected 100 Companies then there are more than 10,000 pharmaceutical producers;

(b) whether any complaints of discrimination in issuing the DPEA notices to the companies have come to the notice of Government;

(c) whether issue of DPEA notices has dampening effect on the production of essential drugs in drugs and pharmaceutical industry resulting in a big set-back in new investment and widening the gap between demand and supply of essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to create a climate of confidence in drug industry for its healthy growth?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Notices have been issued only in those cases which fall within the scope of paragraphs 4 & 7 of DPCO, 1979 and paragraphs 14 and 15 OF DPCO, 1987, and the judgements of the courts. The question

of any discrimination, therefore, does not arise.

(c) Notices for recovery of overcharged amounts and unintended benefits have nothing to do with the investments, as such investments have to be financed from the legitimate financial resources of the company and not from the unauthorised gains which do not belong to the producers. There is adequate production and availability of essential drugs in the country.

(d) Before finalising the amounts due in accordance with the due procedure of law, opportunity is also given to the concerned company for bringing out discrepancy, if any.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Raw Material by Nepa Ltd.

1942. SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepa Limited, Napanagar had entered into contract with the Government of Maharashtra to purchase raw material (bamboos) from Dhulia (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the quantity of bamboo to be purchased under this contract;

(c) the date upto which the entire quantity of raw material was to be lifted by the Nepa mill as per the contract;

(d) if the entire quantity has not been lifted, the remaining quantity thereof and the extent of loss to the Mill as a result thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?