

VISIT OF MAHARAJA OF BHUTAN

*1138. **Sri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Maharaja and Maharani of Bhutan have agreed to visit India in response to the invitation of the Government of India on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations on the 26th January 1954?

The **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** The Maharaja of Bhutan is arriving in Delhi on the 13th of January, 1954, in response to an invitation from the Government of India. He will be visiting a few other places and then come back to Delhi for the Republic Day Celebrations.

Shri Bheeka Bhai: May I know the places that will be visited by the Maharaja of Bhutan?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: He will visit Bharatpur, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Sanchi and other places.

MANDI ROCK SALT MINES

*1139. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the **Minister of Production** be pleased to state the amounts that were sanctioned under the Five Year Plan for the development of Mandi Rock Salt Mines for the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

(b) How much out of these sanctioned amounts have so far been utilised for their development?

The **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) The Planning Commission included the Scheme in the Plan and provided for the following amounts:

1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
Nil.	Rs. 10 lakhs	Rs. 80 lakhs

However, the sanctioned Budget Grants, for the Development of the Mandi Salt Mines are as follows:

1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
Nil.	Rs. 10 lakhs	Rs. 1 lakh (token)

(b) The sums spent are as follows:

1951-52	1952-53	1953-54. (Up to end of October 1953).
Nil.	Rs. 35,424-13-6	Rs. 19,515-13-6

Shri Hem Raj: May I know what results have been so far obtained from the coal drilling operations?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far attempts were made to have the coal drilling operations on three occasions, but, unfortunately, due to certain difficulties, the boring had to be stopped last year. In December, 1952, the drilling was undertaken and then it went on up to the middle of July. By that time there were 3 bore-holes but in one case the casing broke down, in another case other difficulties come up and now a new programme has been undertaken by Government and the work is in progress.

Shri Hem Raj: By what time will the programme be finished?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It is difficult to say, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STEEL ALLOTMENT

*1100. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether allotments for the fourth quarter of 1953 in respect of Steel has been made;

(b) the total ton of Steel allotted for the fourth quarter of 1953 and how it compares with that of the fourth quarter of 1952; and

(c) the quantity of iron and steel so far exported in 1953?

The **Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2,54,135 tons of steel were allotted for the fourth quarter of 1953 as against 2,47,290 tons allotted for the fourth quarter of 1952. Besides, bars, rods and light structurals