

(b) and (c). The project cost is estimated to be about Rs. 250 crores. The proposal envisages a peak production of 2.85 MMCMD of non-associated gas from Oil India Ltd's fields in Assam. At present associated gas is being flared in Assam. The development of non-associated gas can be considered only after there is full utilisation of the associated gas.

[*Translation*]

**Railway Line between Lohardaga and Korba**

5091. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for the construction of a railway line between Lohardaga and Korba:

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of this railway line will be started for the overall development of this backward tribal area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Survey for a new BG line from Lohardaga to Korba was conducted in 1977. The 312 km long line was estimated to cost Rs. 82.30 crores at the then prevailing price level. The project was not found financially viable. Due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments in hand, it is difficult to consider this project at present.

[*English*]

**Relief to Bhopal Gas Victims**

5092. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families which have lost their earning hands in the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) how many of these families have since been provided with other means of livelihood by Union Carbide Corporation, State Government and other Government agencies; and

(c) how much loans had been advanced by Banks, State Government, Central Government, and Union Carbide Corporation; and

(d) whether any loans advanced to such affected families have been written off and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). According to the information furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the number of families who have lost their earning hands, is 1843. This number is at the present stage of certification of death cases and as this process progresses, this number may increase. The details of the families which have been provided with means of livelihood is given below:-

- (i) those families in which there has been at least one adult death are being paid a monthly relief of Rs. 750/- per month under the Orders of Supreme Court. Out of 3730 deaths certified, ex-gratia payment of Rs. 10,000/- has been made in 3389 cases. Payment could not be made in remaining 341 cases because either the dead bodies could not be identified or the relatives of deceased could not be traced for want of address. In addition, as per Supreme Court Orders, certain other specific categories of vic-