

Shri K. C. Reddy: Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to lignite?

Shri Meghnad Saha: Yes.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is still in the project stage. A pilot project has just been taken up by the Government of Madras, and no production has yet been made. After the pilot project succeeds and after production begins, it will ease the situation somewhat.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

*97. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have taken notice of the Central African Federation Scheme now under discussion for South and North Rhodesia and Nyasaland;

(b) the number of Indians domiciled in these territories and how far their future status is likely to be affected by the Scheme;

(c) whether Government have had any communication with the U.N.O. or with the Government of the U. K. on this Federation proposal from the point of view of the autonomy or self-Government of the non-autonomous territories; and

(d) whether Government have made it known that India is vitally interested in the future development of Africa?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The Government of India are aware that a scheme for the Central African Federation has been put forward and has been under discussion.

(b) There are approximately 4,150, 2,600 and 4,000 Indians in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland respectively. The proposal for a federation is still in a formative stage and it is difficult to say how ultimately this will affect the Indian community in those areas.

(c) and (d). No formal communications have been sent on behalf of the Government to the U.N.O. or the U.K. in regard to this proposal. But the fact that the Government of India is interested and is of opinion that the views of the African inhabitants of these areas should be given the fullest consideration is well-known. When occasion arises, the Government's views will be formally communicated to the other Governments concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if any of the former mandated areas or

areas now under the Trusteeship Council are also to be included in this Federation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sorry, I cannot give an answer to that without enquiry. I am not sure.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is any such proposal for Federation likely to come up for consideration on the Trusteeship Council of the U.N.O. or the General Assembly of the U.N.O.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Normally, it does not automatically come up unless some party brings it forward.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government of India have got any idea to bring forward this proposal before the U.N.O.?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, sir.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact that Indians settled in Central Africa have been making common cause with the white people there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

PRODUCTION OF UREA AND AMMONIUM NITRATE AT SINDRI

*98. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what progress has been made at Sindri for expansion of the factory for production of urea and ammonium nitrate?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): A team of administrative and technical experts in which T.C.A. is represented has been sent to Japan, North America and Europe on 10th February 1953 to visit important Urea and Ammonium-Nitrate Plants in those countries and study the different processes of Urea and Ammonium Nitrate manufacture, with a view to select the process most suitable for adoption at Sindri. The team is expected to take about two months to complete the study and submit a report.

Shri Barman: In case it is considered desirable to start this production at Sindri, is it proposed to start it by State enterprise or private enterprise?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It will be started by the Sindri Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited, and it is a state enterprise.

Shri A. M. Thomas rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who have tabled the question must have priority. Mr. Barman.

Shri Barman: It was known some time that out of the sludge that is left