

into account the fact that this is not a new project, that it is only a further extension of the present existing project, and that these waters would flow through the chronic famine areas of Rayalaseema?

Shri Hathbi: It may not be a new project. But before it is actually taken up, the project report and the estimates have to be scrutinised technically, and that is being done.

Dr. Rama Rao: In view of the famine-stricken condition of Rayalaseema, may I know what steps Government are taking to see that this is taken up at the instance of the Central Government?

Shri Hathbi: We will take it up as soon as it is possible after the examination is over, which will take about two or three months.

Shri Raghavachari: May I know when this examination by the Central Government is likely to be over?

Shri Hathbi: I said two or three months.

SALT

*2438. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what steps have Government taken or propose to take to increase the production of salt in Orissa State in order to make it self-sufficient?

(b) Is it a fact that the Salt Expert Committee had recommended that the Office of the Assistant Salt Commissioner for the Eastern Zone should be located in Ganjam District of the Orissa State?

(c) Has any step been taken to give effect to this recommendation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) A statement showing the steps taken to increase the production of salt in the State is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 74.]

(b) Yes.

(c) This recommendation was not accepted on considerations of economy.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra: With regard to item (4) in the statement may I know what special facilities are offered to the co-operative societies?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Under item (3) the hon. Member could see that assistance is given in the procurement of controlled commodities like steel, cement, etc. There are others also. I may point out that we have recently passed the Salt Cess Act and a separate fund has been created. Hereafter it is expected the tempo of development work will increase.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra: Are these special facilities given only to co-operative societies or to all manufacturers?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I think preference is given to the co-operative societies.

Shri B. C. Das: May I know what steps Government are taking to improve the quality of salt manufactured in Orissa?

Shri R. G. Dubey: There is a proposal to set up a chemical laboratory; I believe it will take some time before this laboratory and other technical assistance apparatus come into action.

INDIAN COFFEE BOARD EMPLOYEES

*2440. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Servants Conduct Rules apply to the employees of the Indian Coffee Board; and

(b) if not, whether the Board has separate 'Rules' and these have been published and notified to all the employees?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The Board have, by byelaws and office orders, applied to their staff the Government Servants Conduct Rules.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether these workers enjoy all the rights and