

NANDIKONDA PROJECT

***661. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what decision has been taken by Government in regard to the inclusion of the Nandikonda Project in the First Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): No decision has yet been taken regarding the inclusion of Nandikonda Project in the First Five Year Plan.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know whether it is a fact that the Andhra Government recently asked the Centre that the Nandikonda scheme should be included in the First Five Year Plan?

Shri Hathi: Yes, in fact the project report has been received. It has been examined. A team of officers was sent there to discuss with the engineers of the States concerned. They have suggested certain changes according to which investigations are being proceeded with.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the difficulty of the Central Government in including this project in the First Five Year Plan?

Shri Hathi: There is no difficulty. The question is that the project report has to be considered and examined in detail. In order to avoid any delay, the Government has taken steps to see that the matter is expedited, and instead of corresponding we sent a team of officers to discuss personally.

Shri Raghuramaiah: In view of the reports which are being very widely circulated in the area affected by this that the project is being slowly dropped, may we have the assurance that the project is still under the active and sympathetic consideration of the Government?

Shri Hathi: Sir, it is being considered by the Government.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: May I know if various other small projects

in Hyderabad State have been held up because of this Nandikonda Project?

Shri Hathi: I do not think that various other projects are being held up. But it is a co-ordinated plan, and it may be that certain projects may not be taken up in case this is taken up.

SALT

***662. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exploitation of the subterranean brine area of Sultanpore in Gurgaon District of Punjab by open dug wells, for the purpose of salt manufacture is feasible; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the question of manufacturing salt in the said area?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Yes.

(b) No. However, it is understood that the Government of East Punjab have a proposal to organise a Co-operative Society to run a salt factory in this area and have drawn up a scheme for the development of the salt industry in the district. Boring operations are understood to have been undertaken with a view to deciding the brine reserves, their location and composition.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the quality and quantity of the brine available there?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It is not possible to assess the reserves available there, but I can give some rough estimate. These salt reserves were exploited right upto 1900. In those days the annual production was of the order of 2 lakh maunds.

Shri Nanadas: I want to know the quality of brine available there.

Shri R. G. Dubey: Except in the case of Sultanpore village the quality in other villages is inferior.