

take over Nagarjuna Sagar Project over the Krishna as centrally-sponsored project; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the Nagarjuna Sagar Project as central project?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

**Contract with S.N.A.M. of Italy for Exploration of Oil**

3303. **Shri S. Kundu:**  
**Shri K. P. Singh Deo:**  
**Shri Nath Pal:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**  
**Shri Srinibas Misra:**

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had entered into any contracts with M/s SNAM of the E.N.I. Group of Italy for drilling and exploration of oil wells in India;

(b) if so, the amount involved by way of foreign exchange and in terms of Indian currency in these contracts; and

(c) the number of oil wells drilled under the contracts, the places where drilled and the results of such drilling operations?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghu Ramalah):** (a) The ONGC entered into two contracts with SNAM Spa for inland drilling and one for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Cambay.

(b) Under the two contracts for inland drilling, the following payments were made:—

<i>Foreign Exchange</i>	<i>Rupees</i>
\$85,94,712.00	1,36,69,838.00

The contract for off-shore drilling provided for payments of \$4.999 million in foreign exchange and Rs. 27

lakhs in Indian currency. But no expenditure was incurred, as the contract was finally cancelled.

(c) Under the first two contracts, four wells were drilled in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, but no accumulation of oil or gas was met with in these wells. However, valuable sub-surface geological information was obtained which will facilitate the future study of the oil gas prospects of this vast region. Work under the third contract for off-shore drilling could not be taken up for the reason given above.

**Foreign Exchange for Idikki Hydro-Electric Project**

3304. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**  
**Shri C. Janardhanan:**  
**Shri P. C. Adichan:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Idikki Hydro-Electric Project requires some additional foreign exchange in addition to the Canadian assistance, for getting tools and equipment;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange needed for the same; and

(c) if so, steps taken to meet the additional requirement of foreign exchange?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Kerala Electricity Board is preparing the estimate of additional foreign exchange required for the purpose. Necessary steps for meeting this requirement will be taken on receipt of the estimate from the Board.

**Central Assistance to Orissa**

3305. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the Orissa Government out of Rupees 96.