

PRASAD): (a) and (b). Approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is still awaited. The matter is being pursued vigorously at the highest level.

(c) and (d). The Planning Commission have indicated a provision of Rs. 4 crores during the Fourth Plan for this project.

Lankarnsar-Bikaner lift Irrigation Scheme

4851. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE

SHARMA:

SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Rajasthan Government to provide funds for Lankarnsar-Bikaner lift Irrigation Scheme in Rajasthan which is an important project to provide water to this desert area;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) whether the Central Government would see that this project is included in the Fourth Plan so as to avoid further embarrassment to the State Government in the speedy completion of the Rajasthan Canal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The Lankarnsar Bikaner lift Irrigation Scheme has been proposed by the Government of Rajasthan as a part of the Rajasthan Canal Project. The revised estimates will be sent to the Planning Commission after they have been technically examined by the Central Water and Power Commission.

Resignation by Workers of Nundydroog Mines

4852. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:

SHRI N. R. LASKAR:

SHRI R. BARUA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three hundred and seventy-seven out of 400 underground machine-men and machine maistries of the Nundydroog mines, submitted their resignations on the 9th and 10th July, 1969 to the Kolar Gold Mines Undertakings;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for such action; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remove their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) 345 out of nearly 430 Machine Maistries and Machinemen of the Nundydroog Mine had tendered their resignation on varying dates between the 7th and 10th July, 1969.

(b) A category of Machine-Cum-Blasting Maistries who do both drilling and blasting has been in existence on the Nundydroog Mine since 1953 (as a result of an Agreement with the Nundydroog Mine Labour Association). This category of workmen is paid higher wages than the Machine Maistries and Blasting Maistries in the other Mines who do only one of these jobs. In addition a special allowance of 50 paise per shift was sanctioned to be distributed between the Machine-Cum-Blasting Maistries and his two assistants, the Machinemen since January, 1966. Despite this system being in vogue for over 15 years, a Machine-Cum-Blasting Maistries and Machinemen went on a strike from 1st July, 1969 their demand being that their work which consisted of drilling and blasting should be bifurcated. The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Bangalore, the officials of the recognised Labour Union and the local Member of the Mysore Legislative Assembly had all tried to persuade the workmen to resume work and there-after have talks with the management regarding their demand. The workmen, however, disregarded