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Title: Problems being faced by the people due to renewal of salt manufacturing license to Snow-white Company in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Hon. Deputy-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you regarding the problem of a salt manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh. Some 565 acres were given to one Snow-white Company for salt-making in coastal village of Chinna Ganjaam of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh. This issue is raking up once again. Earlier, in the year 1999, this company got licence during the period of NDA Government, from the office of Salt Commissioner for the preparation of salt. A large number of small peasants and small salt manufactures lost their lands. The Government took over even the *patta* land.

Salt-making involves filling up of fields up to two feet with seawater which causes increase in salination of groundwater and that will be useless for agricultural and drinking purpose. This negative effect expands to several kilometers around. Some 11 surrounding villages are badly affected. Sir, people from these villages are agitating against salt-making and demanding for the distribution of this land for the poor. Two agitators were killed in the police firing in February, 2000. This resulted the salt-making project to be temporarily shelved.

Again, last month, the Snow-white Company managed to get the licence renewed for twelve more years which is creating panic among the people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : Now a new agitation has again started. Sir, I would request the Government to cancel the renewal of the licence and help the people.