

areas requiring study in the first stage programme of the department.

(c) The outcome will be known when the studies reach the stage of results.

(d) No, Sir. But the value of a comprehensive enquiry is recognised. The feasibility of having such an enquiry made will be taken up at a later stage.

Secondary Education Grants Commission

497. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri D. J. Naik:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 18 on the 27th May, 1964 and state:

(a) the progress made in the matter of providing better conditions of service, uniform pattern of secondary education and the establishment of a Secondary Education Grants Commission as represented in the Memoranda submitted by the teachers all over the country; and

(b) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). The attention of the State Governments has been drawn towards the need for improving the service conditions of teachers and providing reasonable security of service. States are conscious of the need for improving conditions of service of teachers and have been taking steps in this direction from time to time although there are several difficulties—mainly financial.

It was agreed in principle at the last conference of State Education Ministers that the country should move towards a uniform pattern of 12 year school education. This objective is constantly before the State

Governments, who have to implement the recommendation.

The question of establishing a Secondary Education Grants Commission or some other organisation for this purpose is under consideration.

Setting up an Engineering and Construction Company to Build Refineries with U. S. Partnership

*498. { **Shri P. C. Eroroah:**
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri D. J. Naik:
Shri M. G. Thengondar:
Shri Veerappa:

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

(a) whether Government have recently entered into a partnership with the U.S.A. to set up an engineering and construction company to build refineries and other associated plants;

(b) if so, the terms of the partnership agreement; and

(c) the precise functions and constitution of the Company?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (c). A Memorandum of Understanding was initialled on the 27th June, 1964 with Bechtel International Corporation of U.S.A. for setting up an engineering company to provide technical and engineering services needed in the development of petroleum, petro-chemical and other industrial projects in India. Government of India will have 51 per cent share in the equity capital of the company and the balance of 49 per cent capital will be subscribed by Bechtel. The detailed terms and the functions of the new company are being finalised.