

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I have risen so many times.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry. Before the taller friends I have not been able to notice him.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I think a constitutional clause should be put in the People's Representation Act that no person on my side should be taller than me.

May I know if any representation has been received from the new Buddhist converts by the Home Ministry and whether the reasons which they have given for the continuation of concessions has been examined and if so what is the result?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Representations were received. Careful consideration was given to them. The law experts were consulted and the answer that I have given is based on the advice given by them and on the very serious thought given to the matter by the Home Ministry.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the neo-Buddhists still consider themselves as belonging to the so-called untouchable community and whether they are being so treated by the caste Hindus even after their conversion?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Untouchability is inconsistent with a religion so noble and humanitarian as Buddhism. There are millions of Buddhists outside India and nowhere I think is untouchability observed among them or any caste system in any way encouraged.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The point which the hon. Member wanted to know—and that also covers my question—is whether even after conversion to Buddhism the majority community of the Hindus continues to practise any form of ostracism against them. That is the point I think he would like to know.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** We do not want any sort of ostracism against any individual in this country.

**Shri Nagi Reddy:** But what is the reality and fact?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is for each individual Hindu to consider it for himself.

#### Kundah Project

\*346. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Canadian help to the Kundah Project extends only to the first stage of the Hydrel works,

(b) whether it is a fact that Canada is willing to extend help for laying the transmission lines also to link up with the existing Madras grid,

(c) whether the Madras Government have requested the Centre to secure for it this additional help also; and

(d) if so, what steps the Union Government have taken in regard thereto?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) to (d). The Canadian aid for the Kundah Project contemplated the inclusion of transmission lines subject to a limit of \$20 million. When the details were worked out it was found that the cost of transmission lines would not be covered within this limit. Our request for additional assistance for this item is under the consideration of the Canadian Government.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** May I know whether the Canadian aid is complete by itself or whether in order to complete that project we have got to buy any essential commodities on our account?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I could not give the details of the commodities that we have to buy, but I think no aid of this nature is complete. There are certain things which are filled up by indigenous production to a very large extent.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Concern was expressed in the Legislative Assembly about the possible slowing

down of the scheme owing to shortage of foreign exchange. May I know whether there has been no slowing down of this project on account of the shortage of foreign exchange?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It is precisely for the reason that there should be no slowing down of this project that we approached the Canadian Government for additional aid in respect of the purchase of transmission lines that is needed.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether the Government will also make contributions to supplement this 20 million dollars of Canadian aid so that there is no slowing down so that the project is completed according to schedule?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I had mentioned that this 20 million dollar aid does not complete all the requirements of this particular project and the question of financing this project is a matter on which the State Government and the Central Government have had consultations and they have decided on ways and means. What is now feared is that shortage of foreign exchange might prevent us from importing the balance of equipment that is needed for completion and it is for this purpose that we have made an approach to the Canadian Government for assistance.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know the extra amount needed for the transmission lines in this project?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The rough estimate is about 6 million dollars.

**Shri Nanjappa:** May I know whether the work will not be delayed on account of delay in the shipping of import from foreign countries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The whole idea of trying to ensure that we get the supply is to see that the work is not delayed.

### Petroleum Concessions

\*347. **Shri Matin:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the new petroleum concessions that have been granted during the last three years,

(b) the amount spent on prospecting by the concession holders and by Government during the same period; and

(c) the results achieved during the last three years?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) to (c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 103]

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Eight companies were given concessions from 1955 for two or three years only whilst the As-am Oil Company has managed to get a lease for 30 years for mining. May I know why this deference has been made especially when the manganese mine owners get ore at least a concession for only 15 years?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** There is a distinction between a prospecting licence, an exploring licence and a mining lease. My hon friend has picked only the mining lease item which is mentioned in Annexure I and he is trying to compare the length of time of the mining lease with the prospecting licence or an exploring licence. They are not comparable at all.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the rules in regard to the petroleum concession to be given and if so, when this amendment of the rules will be brought about?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The question of revising the petroleum concession rules has been engaging the attention of Government, and it is Government intention to place