

Shri Ranga: Why is it necessary that we should keep our defence employees there in Nepal? Is it at the request of the Nepal Government or for any other purpose?

Sardar Majithia: So far as the Indian Military Mission was concerned, it was definitely at the request of the Nepal Government. So far as the construction of the road is concerned, it is under the Colombo Plan.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know the nature of the mission in Nepal and what they are supposed to be doing there?

Sardar Majithia: They were originally taken by the Nepal Government to train their army on modern lines.

General Elections

*339. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state whether foreign observers came to India to watch the working of the polling system in India during the recent elections?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Yes, Sir. Two officers of the Government of Pakistan and a party of 40 officers sent by the Government of Nepal visited India to watch the working of the polling system in India during the recent General Elections.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether these foreign observers had published articles in the Press of their country commenting on our elections?

Shri A. K. Sen: If any particular article is referred to we shall be very happy to take note of that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether, excepting the two countries mentioned by the hon. Minister, any other countries have commented, and those comments have been sent?

Shri A. K. Sen: No comments have so far been sent to us, as far as our information goes.

Shri Thirumal Rao: Did any foreign correspondents tour the country during the general elections, and if so, has it come to the notice of Government?

Shri A. K. Sen: I am sure many foreign correspondents must have toured the country and reported about the progress of the elections. But if any particular report is referred to, we shall be glad to take note of it.

Shri Thirumal Rao: It is not a matter for surmise. I want to know whether any information with regard to these foreign correspondents is in the hands of Government.

Shri A. K. Sen: If the hon. Member has any particular correspondent in view, we want notice of it.

Mr. Speaker: Does not Government keep in touch with reactions in the foreign Press about important matters?

Shri A. K. Sen: We do keep in touch with the reactions in the foreign press about the elections, but if any particular country, or any particular correspondent is referred to, we want notice of that and we shall enlighten the House on that.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether after having experience of our elections, there is a possibility of early elections in Pakistan?

Shri A. K. Sen: How does that question arise?

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether these observers who came from Pakistan and who were referred to by the hon. Minister came in order to receive training in election work or they came to report on the working of democracy in this country.

Shri A. K. Sen: What exact connection they had with their respective States or Governments is a matter which is within the special knowledge of the observers and their respective states. We could only see them touring this country and reporting on the progress of the elections. More than

that it is difficult to surmise, nor is it possible or proper to expect in the matter.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether it is a fact that the Pakistani observers came to this country at the request of Pakistan or without any request from that Government?

Shri A. K. Sen: That is for Pakistan to enlighten us. We have no information as to what particular instructions...

Shri Radhelal Vyas: Did they come at the request of the Pakistan Government to the Government of India?

Shri A. K. Sen: For that notice is needed, whether the Government of India extended any invitation or not. That does not strictly arise out of this.

Shri B. S. Murthy: As regards the Pakistani observers the hon. Minister was pleased to say that he had no idea as to their *bona fides*. May I know whether Government had not taken any steps to see whether they were *bona fides* observers before they were allowed to tour the country?

Shri A. K. Sen: As far as my recollection goes, I never used the expression "*bona fide*". What I said was what specific connection they had with their respective States or Governments was a matter within the special knowledge of the observers and the States.

Royalty on Minerals

*340. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have agreed to the enhancement of the royalty on the minerals available in the States to help the States with more revenue for their development purposes; and

(b) if so the number of States which have obtained this concession?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir; but the primary object of the enhancement

was to bring the royalty rates into line with the general rise in the level of prices, rentals, and wages. Its incidental effect will doubtless be to augment the revenues of State Governments.

(b) The enhanced rates are applicable uniformly to all States throughout India.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know what is the total amount that the Andhra Pradesh Government will be getting from the Centre as royalty, and also whether the Central Government proposes to give any loan to Andhra Pradesh?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid I will not be able to give that information just now because I have not got those details.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the royalty which will be received by the State Governments would be spent for specific purposes or for the general development of the schemes?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is for the Andhra Pradesh Government to decide, as to what they will do with the increased royalty that they will get.

Mr. Speaker: Are they earmarked for any purpose, is there any direction by the Centre?—that is what he wants to know.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, there is no earmarking.

लाला प्रफुल्ल राम : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि इस वक्त पंजाब को क्या रायेल्टी दी जाती है ?

की क० दे० मा० व० य० : प्रलग प्रलग खनिज की प्रलग प्रलग रायेल्टी निर्धारित की जाती है। मुझे मालूम नहीं कि किस चीज के बारे में माननीय सैम्बर जानना चाहते हैं।

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what increase is proposed to be given in the matter of royalty on the ilmenite