

living contemporaries to broadcast unpublished true anecdotes of Gandhiji. Some anecdotes were accordingly broadcast from certain stations. It is proposed that later collected anecdotes will be published in a book-form.

EXPENDITURE ON BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

\*366. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 50 on the 25th July, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the review of the estimated expenditure on the Bhakra Dam Project has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the estimated amount of increase and reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Revived estimate has been prepared but it has not yet been approved.

(b) As against the estimate of Rs. 158-8834 crores worked out in 1954, the estimated cost now stands at Rs. 173-5483 crores, resulting in an increase of Rs. 14-6649 crores. This increase is due to the widening of the scope of the Project, viz. installation of an additional unit at each of the Power Houses at Ganguwal and Kotla, as also four additional units at the Bhakra Power House, besides additional expenditure on the civil works on the right bank Power House.

ENGINEERING PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

\*367. { **Shri Bansal:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Wodeyar:**  
**Shri Gadilingana Gowd:**  
**Shri Madhao Reddi:**

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Personnel Committee appointed by the Commission has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) The Engineering Personnel Committee has so far sent only its Interim Recommendations.

(b) A copy of the Committee's Interim Recommendations is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. S-72/56.]

CONVERSIONS OF MUSLIMS

\*368. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri M. R. Krishna:**  
**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that reports of large scale conversions of Muslims to Hinduism in India are appearing in the Pakistan Press; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to contradict these false reports?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) and (b). Recently the Pakistani Press gave wide publicity to a report published in an Urdu daily of Delhi towards the end of December 1955, alleging mass conversion of Muslims to Hinduism in Rajasthan. In the meanwhile, however, the Indian newspaper had the report verified and finding that it was false, issued a contradiction which was published in a number of newspaper in Pakistan. Our High Commissioner in Karachi and Deputy High Commissioner in Lahore also made statements to the Press refuting reports of conversion of Muslims in India.

NATIONAL LABOUR FORCE

\*369. **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the decision of the Government in connection with the establishment of a National Labour Force?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** No decision has been taken by Government so far regarding the establishment of a National Labour Force.