

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The hon. Minister stated in the last session of the Rajya Sabha that it would be laid on the Table of the House. Perhaps, he meant the session of the Lok Sabha, and this is the second session of the Rajya Sabha. May I know by what time the Report will come?

Secondly, may I know whether they have got any information regarding the use of foreign money in the mid-term elections also

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Madam, I said that the statement will be made in the current session.

As far as this Report is concerned it does not cover mid-term elections.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government has received any complaints that any foreign money was used during the mid-term elections and if the Government has received any such complaint, what action has the Government taken?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Allegations are made, but I have not received any specific complaint.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: May I know whether the Government will hold an inquiry whether foreign money has been received or not in the mid-term elections?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: No, Madam.

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

•186. SHRI A. D. MANT:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :f

Wilt the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign religious missionaries serving in Christian missions in the country are proposed to be replaced by Indian missionaries; and

(b) whether Government have refused to renew the passports of foreign missionaries working in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Indianisation of foreign Christian missions is proposed to be achieved progressively by allowing fresh foreign missionaries only if they possess outstanding qualifications and specialised experience and no suitable Indians are available for the work.

(b) Presumably reference is to extension of residential permits and not passports.

It has been decided that some of the foreign missionaries working in Darrang and Lakhimpur Districts of Assam, which is a restricted area under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, should be asked to move out of Assam. But they may work in other areas in the country, which are not protected, restricted or tribal.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know from the Government whether they have received a specific complaint from the area of Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur particularly that the Indianisation of these missions is being obstructed by transferring all the assets of the present missions to a Central Northern India Church Institute where one Rev. Ruff is controlling the interests on behalf of America? If this is a fact, what action the Government proposes to take on this complaint being made to the Ministry?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Madam, we will look into this matter.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA: Has the Ministry any idea in regard to the funds that the foreign missionaries have been receiving all these years? May I know whether they have any proposal to see that within the next three years, say, by 1972—they should fix a deadline—no foreign money

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

should come into India to any clergyman or institution and that the churches in India should be self-reliant and should stand on their own legs?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Madam, this is not the attitude of the Government. If foreign help comes through legitimate channels for legitimate purposes here, we have no idea of stopping that kind of thing. Our concern is that foreign money for such benevolent purposes should come through legitimate channels and should be used for legitimate purposes. As long as this is achieved, we do not want to come in its way.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: I do not know why these Hindus...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please put a question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN:...are worried about the foreign people coming here and doing some economic elevation work, economic upliftment work. You know, Madam, this Hindu community is suppressing people like myself and the Scheduled Castes. I do not know in which way it will affect these caste-ridden people, these Hindus, who are advocating the prevention of coming of foreign missionaries.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ask a question. I do not want suggestions or information.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: I suggest that there can be no bar on the part of the Government to prevent this foreign money if it comes through the backdoor and if it comes illegally...

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was no question.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: He has not replied to my question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: May I know what the hon. Minister means by outstanding qualifications? What are the qualifications which are considered

outstanding in the case of missionaries? For all I know, a missionary is mainly for the purpose of his proselytising activities. Now, what particular qualifications will be considered outstanding and which will be considered normal or below normal? I would like to know.

Secondly, I would also like to know why, if those outstanding qualities are possessed by some missionaries, the Government considers it unsafe to let them work in Assam. After all, if they are there to spread schools and establish hospitals, let the benefit go to the border areas also. If there are some reservations, I would like to know what they are.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It is not correct to say that their only desire is to convert the people. It is not so. Actually, the missionaries who come here, by and large, they come here with the idea of serving the people here, and as long as they do this job, there could be no objection to their work here. But if they take actions which are not in the best interests of the country or of the people and if they come to our notice, we do take action. We warn them and if they persist in doing things which are not correct, then we even ask them to leave the country. But in respect of those missionaries who are coming and doing a humanitarian work, service, we do not want to come in their way of working.

As far as outstanding qualifications are concerned, may I say that some of the missionaries are outstanding doctors, nurses and others, for which work we do not get enough people to go into those backward areas. For instance, take leprosy work. I would invite the hon. Member's attention that for leprosy work all kinds of people from other countries come and do the work. But our own countrymen do not come forward to do that work. How can we say to them that they go out of our country when our countrymen are not prepared to work there?