

ELECTORAL COLLEGES

*1118. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three Electoral Colleges for Manipur, Tripura and Kutch, were exclusively meant for the election of members to the Council of States; and

(b) whether these Electoral bodies will be taken into confidence and treated as consultative bodies in making important legislations in their respective States, in view of the assurance given by the then Minister of States to that effect?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no intention of converting the Electoral Colleges into State Legislatures or consultative bodies. The statement made by the Minister for States in August 1951 in Parliament bearing on this matter will of course be borne in mind.

Shri Bhawanji: May I know whether the Advisory Committee which was functioning in Kutch has been abolished recently?

Dr. Katju: I leave it to you, Sir, to consider whether this question which relates to electoral colleges in Tripura, Manipur and Kutch can be extended to advisory councils?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, I was not able to follow that question.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware that that his predecessor had given an assurance in the Provisional Parliament that the electoral colleges in these States would be treated more or less as local legislatures, empowered to discuss important pieces of legislation in the respective States?

Dr. Katju: I respectfully ask my hon. friend to read the statement made by the hon. Minister of States in August 1951. I have got it before me and he said that whenever occasion will arise Government may think it proper to consult the electoral college or its members informally and I have said in my answer that we will bear it in mind.

Shri L. J. Singh: Were there any occasions till now when the electoral colleges could have been consulted?

Dr. Katju: Not so far to my knowledge.

Shri L. J. Singh: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister recently paid a visit to Manipur and Tripura, will he please state what form of democratic set-up is contemplated in these states?

Dr. Katju: The democratic set-up is already there. It's a Part C State governed according to an Act of this Parliament and whatever control is exercised is subject to Parliament. So far as the democratic form of Government in the State itself is concerned, it will be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Act passed by Parliament.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether the Chief Commissioner's regime without an elected Legislative Assembly is called a democratic set-up?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the fact that the members of these electoral colleges were elected on the basis of franchise which was enjoyed by people in other parts of India, will Government be pleased to give us the reasons why the members of these electoral colleges are not to be taken into confidence in regard to important pieces of legislation? Will Government please explain the reason for the deprivation of democratic rights of the electorate of these areas?

Dr. Katju: These areas are governed by an Act of Parliament. Hon. members have ample opportunity to get it amended.

Shri Rishang Keishing: What is the strength of the Congress Party in the electoral colleges of both the States?

Dr. Katju: I require notice.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it a fact that the Electoral Colleges in these two States have not been treated as Legislative Assemblies because the Congress has not got a majority there?

Dr. Katju: Sir, is that a question, or is that an enquiry being made? It is an argument. There is no tenability in it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question Hour is over.