

श्री त्यागी : इन को पेंशन कम्प्यूट करन का अधिकार अभी तक नहीं दिया गया था और वह इसलिए कि ये कन्ट्रक्ट बेसिस पर थे और अधिकांश लोग अपनी प्रैचुइटी नकद ले लिया करते थे । अब चूंकि नई पेंशन कोड के हिसाब से इन को पेंशन ज्यादा मिलेगी इसलिए इन को कम्प्यूट करने का प्रश्न पर मैं विचार करूंगा ।

General Election

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*762. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Deogam:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) whether during the next General Elections arrangement will be made for a separate booth for women voters of the rural areas;

(b) which of the parties were invited by the Election Commission for the discussion of election matters during the last six months; and

(c) the subject discussed and the decisions taken thereon?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri C. C. Biswas): (a) Yes, Sir, separate polling stations will be provided for women voters, where necessary.

(b) The following four All-India Political Parties were invited:—

(i) the Indian National Congress;

(ii) The Praja Socialist Party;

(iii) The Communist Party of India; and

(iv) The All-India Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

(c) Two statements containing the required information are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 79].

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : स्टेटमेंट नम्बर २ के प्रथम पृष्ठ पर बताया गया है कि चीफ इलेक्शन कमिश्नर ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि नवम्बर के आखिरी सप्ताह में वह चुनाव की तारीखों को निश्चित कर के घोषणा कर देंगे । क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि ऐसा क्यों नहीं किया गया है ?

Shri Biswas: Election dates have not yet been fixed. The matter is under discussion between the Election Commission and the Government and the announcement may be expected within the next few days.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: It has been stated that separate polling booths for women are being contemplated. Has any decision been taken at what distance the women's polling booths would be located?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Distance from each other?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: At what distance from the place of residence.

Shri Biswas: That must be left to the local authorities. You cannot have a definite measure that there must intervene so much distance between one booth and another.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have requested hon. Members not to begin to speak unless they have been called upon. I have tried to accommodate as large a number as possible.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to assure the House that not merely separate polling booths will be provided, but also where there is a considerable number of *pardamashin* women voters, there will be appointed a separate Polling Officer or assistants at that booth?

Shri Biswas: There will be female assistants there to help the voters.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that while fixing the dates the Election Commission had communicated to the various State Governments and some of them have not indicated their views to the Election Commission?

Shri Biswas: As a matter of fact, all the States were written to by the Election Commissioner. Unfortunately, replies have not been received from all of them.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether these women's booths will be manned by women?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The answer has been given that assistance would be provided there.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister that election dates will be announced in the next few days, may I know whether, before making this announcement, Government expects to have the Delimitation Commission's report all over the country?

Shri Biswas: The Delimitation Commission's report is also expected to be

issued in about two weeks' time. That is all I can say. Whether the one will come before the other, I cannot guarantee.

Shrimati Sushama Sen : During the last elections, there were many women voters who were excluded, especially in Bihar. May I know if we have got a correct list now, and whether the women voters are on the list ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question relates to polling booths, not to registration.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न पार्टियों से यह दरियाफ्त किया है कि हिन्दुस्तान में चुनाव करने के लिए कौन सा समय सर्वोत्तम होगा, फरवरी, मार्च, अप्रैल या मई ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question is whether the States have been consulted as to which time would be best suited for the elections.

Shri Biswas : The political parties were consulted, the States were consulted. Unfortunately, different opinions have been given by different bodies, and the matter has now got to be settled.

Shri Nambiar : May I know whether it is a fact that the district officials have been instructed by the State Governments that that they must get ready to conduct the elections in March ? Is it with the previous permission of the Election Commissioner or of the Central Government ?

Shri Biswas : As I said, I do not know which particular officer gave any particular opinion. I cannot say that, but different opinions were expressed. Some said it must be before the beginning of March, that is in the last week of February. Another party or another authority said it should be between the 1st and 15th or 16th of March when the *dol* ceremony begins. Another party said it should be towards the end of March. All these different opinions were expressed, but no decision has yet been taken. The matter is under active consideration by the authorities concerned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question was whether any instructions have been issued to the officers to get ready to have these elections in March, and if such instructions have been issued, whether that has been done by the Election Commissioner or the Central Government.

Shri Biswas : I cannot say. Any instructions about these matters ought to issue from the Election Commissioner. That is all I can say.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि पिछले चुनावों के अवसर

पर इम्प्रेसोनेशन को रोकने के लिए जो स्पष्टी इस्तेमाल की गयी थी . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : जो सवाल प्रश्न रखा था उससे यह सवाल बहुत दूर होगा ।

Shri Biswas : I think we are trying to do away with indelible ink.

Shri Gidwani : May I enquire whether after coming to a tentative decision about the dates, the State Governments will again be consulted before arriving at the final dates ?

Shri Biswas : The dates will be fixed by the Election Commission and that will final.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Next question. We have had enough of this general election.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra : One more question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member will leave it to me to decide when to call the next question.

Ballot Boxes

*763. **Shri Kamath :** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state :

(a) whether any successful demonstration of opening a ballot box without breaking the seals has been given before the Election Commission;

(b) if so, by whom; and

(c) the safeguards that have been devised to make ballot box absolutely tamper-proof?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas) (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I understand from the Election Commission that the ballot boxes are not tamperable if they are properly closed and sealed according to its instructions. The instructions for closing and sealing the ballot boxes have recently amplified and made clearer. During the coming month the Election Commission will also be arranging election rehearsals at which polling personnel will be trained to apply these instructions properly.

Shri Kamath : During and after the last general elections were complaints and allegations of tampering with ballot boxes received from various States, and if so from which States, and were those complaints and allegations kept in view and