

Panel to Study Poll Reforms

264. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision to appoint a panel to study the poll reforms;

(b) if so, the main points to be examined by the panel;

(c) whether all the points raised by the Opposition members and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan before 1977 election will be taken into consideration; and

(d) the time by which the final report will be submitted by the panel to Government?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) There is no proposal to appoint a panel to study poll reforms.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Company Donations to Political Parties

265. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to various newspaper reports about large amounts of funds given by public limited companies for issue of advertisements in souvenirs published by a particular political party;

(b) whether the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs wrote a letter on 8th March, 1977 to the Federation of Indian Chamber of

Commerce and Industry stating that payments for such advertisements were not donations and would not attract any penal provisions under Section 293-A of the Companies Act; and

(c) whether on a writ filed by four limited companies, the Bombay High Court has not agreed with aforesaid interpretation given by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the letter dated 8th March, 1977 it was clarified to FICCI that expenditure incurred by companies on advertisements in souvenirs, bulletins, magazines etc. were not donations/contributions to political parties so as to attract section 293A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) No notice of any writ petition and/or suit has been served on the Government in any legal proceedings.

Transfer orders about Judges challenged in Supreme Court

266. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:
SHRI BASHIR AHMED:
SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Court judges who were transferred during the 19-month of "Internal Emergency" had filed petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the transfer orders;

(b) if so, the names of such judges and the outcome of their petitions;

(c) whether Government have decided to revert the transferred High Court judges to their original places and benches; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). No High Court Judge transferred from one High Court to another during Internal Emergency had filed any petition in the Supreme Court challenging the order of his transfer. However, Shri Justice S. H. Sheth filed a petition in the Gujarat High Court challenging his order of transfer from Gujarat High Court to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The petition was allowed by the High Court and the order of transfer of Shri Justice Sheth was set aside. An appeal preferred by the Union of India is pending in the Supreme Court which has also passed a stay order in this case.

(c) and (d). The Government have decided to retransfer those High Court Judges who had been transferred during the Emergency from one High Court to another without their consent, after ascertaining their willingness to go back to the original High Courts, in case such retransfers are in the public interest. The process of consultations has already been started by the Government and the retransfers will be done after consultations are complete.

R.F.O. for Dhuvaran Plant in Gujarat

267. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Dhuvaran plant in Gujarat is not receiving the necessary and promised R.F.O. from the Tarapur Unit, Bombay;

(b) if so, steps being taken to remedy the situation; and

(c) whether Government are aware that Gujarat State suffers almost regular inadequacy of electricity due to intermittent supply of R.F.O. to

Dhuvaran and if so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The Dhuvaran Power House in Gujarat is getting supply of Residual Fuel Oil or Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) from the Koyali Refinery at Gujarat of Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The supply of this product is being regulated after mutual consultation between the Gujarat Electricity Board and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any inadequacy of electric power generation in Gujarat cannot be attributed to intermittent supply of LSHS, because the Indian Oil Corporation has been supplying the requirements of this product as per mutual consultation, referred to above, even though the offtake of LSHS has been widely fluctuating due to variations in power generation by the said power House. IOC is entering into arrangements for supply of LSHS with Dhuvaran Power House, keeping in view the need to change over to coal in the light of the energy policy of Government and the availability position of coal.

Conversion of Ahmedabad-Delhi metre gauge line into board gauge line

268. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long-standing demand by people of Ahmedabad and Gujarat as also by those of Rajasthan for early start of converting the existing metre-gauge line from Ahmedabad to Delhi via Ajmer and Jaipur into broad-gauge one;

(b) whether Government propose to start work of the said conversion; and

(c) if so, when and how?