

5. The District Electoral Officer concerned should be statutorily required to be consulted and empowered to have a say in the police arrangement for elections.
6. The political bigwigs who harbour proclaimed abscondors and are seen openly in their company, should be proceeded against. The power to grant parole of remission of sentence of convicted criminals, should be sparingly exercised when the elections are imminent or in progress.
7. The unauthorised possession of ballot boxes or electronic voting machine, and unauthorised printing of ballot papers should be made cognisable offence.
8. Increase in the amount of security deposit should be for all candidates.
9. There should be a minimum of 10 proposers for every candidate drawn from different polling areas.
10. No candidate should be allowed to contest from more than one constituency.
11. The campaign period should be reduced from 20 days to 14 days to bring down the election expenses and the administrative cost on the maintenance of law and order.
12. The Election Commission may be empowered to countermand election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the Returning Officer.
13. Every registered political party should publish its account annually and these should be audited by agencies specified by the Commission.
14. Non-maintenance of the true account of election expenses or not filing of its true copy within the prescribed time and manner should be punishable with imprisonment and fine and on conviction the candidate should be disqualified for a period of 6 years.
15. The candidate who fails to lodge his election expenses return within the prescribed time, should automatically stand disqualified for a period of five years.
16. Violation of the Model Code of Conduct should result in the election of the candidate(s) in whose favour or with whose consent or connivance, the violation was caused, being declared void and that the candidate(s) should be disqualified for a period of six years.
17. The existing provision in section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, relating to registration of political parties, should not be deleted and there should be a specific provision to de-register a party if it violates the undertaking given under the section. The power to de-register should vest in the High Court.
18. The provisions of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and section 169 of the Representation of the people Act, 1951, are violative of and repugnant to the provisions of article 324 of the Constitution. The authority to make rules should therefore, be conferred totally on the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall, however, consult the Central Government. The rules so made need not be placed on the Table of the House.
19. The officer nominated or designated as Chief Electoral Officer should not be allowed to do any other work except with the approval of Election Commission.
20. Restoration of pre-1974 position in respect of election expenses.
21. Increase in the ceiling of election expenses as laid in Rule 90 of Conduct of Election Rule, 1961.
22. Amendment to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioner (Condition of Service) Act, 1991 to provide that in a multi member Election Commission, the decision of the Chief Election Commissioner shall be final.
23. Election Commission should be given powers to take disciplinary action against officers of Government while they are performing election related duties.

[Translation]

Publication of Newslines

2294. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has suspended the publication of its journal 'Newslines';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Sale of Electronic Implements

2295. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about the large scale sale of fake electronic implements in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Committee to curb the sale of fake electronic implements;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No Such complaints have been received in the Department of Electronics.

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

Relaxation to OBC

2296. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give atleast 5 years, age relaxation to the backward classes in the Central Government Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (c). Three years, age relaxation has been provided to OBC candidates, in direct recruitment to services and posts under Government of India, vide orders issued on 25.1.95. This was done on the basis of the recommendation made in an all party meeting convened by the Ministry of Welfare.

[English]

Central Government Employees Medicare Corporation

2297. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various pensioners, associations are demanding for setting up of a Central Government Employees Medicare Corporation;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The serving Central Government employees are either cover under Central Government Health Scheme or under CS (MA) Rules, 1944, for

medical facilities. The Central Government Pensioners residing in CGHS covered areas are obtaining medical facilities through CGHS dispensaries. Government have also issued orders for issue of CGHS Card to those Central Government Pensioners who are residing in non-CGHS areas who desire to avail of CGHS facilities on payment of the prescribed subscription. The issue of extension of medical facilities to those Central Government pensioners who are residing in far-flung areas and are not able to avail of CGHS facilities will be considered by the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Tobacco Products

2298. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign businessmen in the tobacco sector are setting up plants in Gujarat to make tobacco products suitable for 100 per cent export;

(b) whether the availability of raw-material in the State has been studied by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the involvement of the Central Tobacco Research Institute in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No such proposal has been approved

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

Textile Weaving Machinery

2299. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textile weaving machinery sector has made a high level representation to the Government to come out with a package of fiscal and financial measures to revive this ailing sector;

(b) if so, whether the production of looms for the last three years have shown a sharp decline;

(c) whether the Federation of Indian Textiles Engineering Industries has brought it into the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, whether AIRJET and shuttleless looms have also dropped by 41% and 62% respectively over the same period and the total production of weaving sector has fallen for the last couple of years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation?