

(c) if so, whether any probe in this regard has been made by the Government or Government propose to issue some directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT HE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It has been reported that Shri Ratnakar Bharti is an Announcer with the BBC, Shri Bharti belongs to Madhya Pradesh and had come to his town on leave. On reading the news item published in the newspapers, the External Affairs Ministry immediately got in touch with the BBC bureau Chief in Delhi and enquired from him whether Shri Bharti was really an employee of the BBC. He immediately got in touch with his headquarters in London and reported to External Affairs Ministry that Shri Bharti was in some sort of contract employment with the BBC and that a suitable message had been delivered to him indicating that if he wished to participate in the Indian election campaign, he should dis-associate himself from the BBC.

Limit on poll expenses in 1980 Elections

68. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government took a decision to limit the poll expenses on the eve of the 1980 Elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). Rule 90 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 relating to the maximum limit of election expenses which may be incurred in a Parliamentary constituency and an Assembly constituency

in the various States and Union territories, was amended by this Ministry's Notification No. 767 (E) dated the 29th November, 1979, which raised the limit of such expenses. having regard to the fact that the limits which were fixed in 1971 had become unrealistic. A copy of the said notification is laid on the Table of the House.

(Placed in Library. See No LT—131/80)

बिहार राज्य के मुंगेर में किउल नदी से भू-कटाव

69 श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : क्या ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार राज्य के मुंगेर में पिछले अनेक वर्षों से किउल नदी से रेहभ्रा, ओलोपुर, रामचन्द्रपुर, मोहनपुर, खुटहा और अन्य गांवों में भू-कटाव हो रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इन गांवों में भू-कटाव रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इन गांवों में भू-कटाव रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर कार्यवाही करेगी ?

ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला विभाग मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खान चौधरी) : (क) से (ग) : सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायगी ।

Legal aid to the poor

70. SHRI K.A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various committees appointed by the previous Governments to make recommendations on a comprehensive legal aid to the poor programme have submitted their reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS : (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). Two committees appointed by the Central Government have made recommendations on the establishment of a comprehensive Legal Aid scheme. The first Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice Shri V. R. Krishna Iyer submitted its reports on the 27th May, 1973, the second Committee with Justice P. N. Bhagwati as the Chairman and Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer as the Member submitted its final report on the 31st August, 1977.

The report of the Krishna Iyer Committee is available in the Library of Parliament and the report of the Bhagwati Committee was laid on the Table of this House on 23rd December, 1977.

(c) The Bhagwati Committee's report is being processed by an Inter-Departmental Committee of Officers.

Irregularities committed during Election in Baghat Constituency

71. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of irregularities committed in the course of elections in the Baghat Constituency during the recent mid-term poll;

(b) is it not a fact that hundreds of Harijan voters were forcibly prevented from voting and in their place unauthorised persons were allowed to vote and amongst them there were minors whose photographs were published in newspapers queuing up before the polling booths;

(c) is it also a fact that the complaints made to the Presiding Officers and other authorities were ignored;

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) According to the information furnished by the Election Commission, in 81-Bhagpat parliamentary constituency, at polling station No. 99-Garhidullah in 402-Barnawa assembly segment of the aforesaid constituency some miscreants armed with weapons entered the polling station and unlawfully took away 3 ballot boxes (one used 2 unused) from the custody of the Presiding Officer. The poll at the said polling station was declared void and fresh poll was held on the 6th January, 1980.

(b) and (c). The Election Commission has informed that such allegations have not been substantiated.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Report of Committee on working of Coal Mines Welfare Fund Organisation

71-A. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Report of the Committee on the working of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Yes, Sir.