

the administrative control of the State Police. Railways, therefore, are not maintaining any separate statistics about the strength of the G.R.P. The total strength of the R.P.F. is 58,946.

(b) No.

(c) Shri K. F. Rustomji was not appointed to examine the desirability of centralizing the control and working of the Police Forces on the Railways. He was appointed to advise problems in connection with the enactment of the Railway Property Special Offences Bill.

Voting by Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections in last Lok Sabha Elections

4611. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in the last elections to Lok Sabha a large number of voters in some constituencies belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections could not exercise their franchise because they were prevented from doing so by interested and powerful elements;

(b) if so, what steps he is proposing to prevent the recurrence of such happenings in future; and

(c) whether he will take steps to set up separate polling booths in Harijan basties and other places where weaker sections reside, so that they may exercise their franchise without fear and intimidation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NAR SINGH YADAV): (a) Some complaints were received in the Election Commission regarding intimidation of Harijan voters and other

voters belonging to the weaker sections of the community from the States of Rajasthan, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(b) According to the new norms evolved by the Election Commission, a much larger number of polling stations will be set up than before. This will automatically help to some extent in setting up polling stations in places where there is a concentration of voters belonging to the weaker sections of the society. The Election Commission has also requested the State Governments where elections are due to be held shortly that as far as possible, C.R.P. rather than the State Police should be deployed for maintaining law and order.

(c) According to the Election Commission, it will not be appropriate to set up polling stations solely for voters belonging to Scheduled Castes or other weaker sections of the society.

इटावा रेलवे स्टेशन के प्लेटफार्म पर लाउड स्पीकों का लगाया जाना

4612. श्री राम प्रकाश त्रिपाठी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 19 सितम्बर, 1977 को उत्तर रेलवे के इटावा रेलवे स्टेशन पर प्लेटफार्म पर भूतपूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी की यात्रा के समय मंच बनाने और सभी खम्बों पर लाउड स्पीकर लगाने की अनुमति किसी रेल अधिकारी द्वारा दी गई थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस अधिकारी का नाम क्या है, जिसकी अनुमति से यह सब किया गया था ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो रेलवे अधिकारियों ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?