

(b) if so, the time by which it will be taken over and the benefits from such take-over ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) It is envisaged that, over a period of years, the Jute Corporation of India would take over of trade in jute.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the period within which such take over would be possible. The take over of the jute trade would result in better prices for the growers than hitherto.

Proposal to meet Election Expenses of Candidates

1265. **SHRI RAM PRAKASH:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to meet election expenses of candidates as done in West Germany ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY):(a) and (b). The Joint Committee of Houses on Amendments to Election Law have made the following observations in Part-I of its Report :

"The Committee have made some suggestions to plug the loopholes in the law in the subsequent sections of this Chapter. The Committee, however, consider that basically the problem of election expenses, which has not only agitated the minds of the candidates and the thinking of political parties but also of the general public, can be solved only if it is accepted in principle that all election expenses ought to be a legitimate charge on the public funds and efforts should be made to achieve that end. The Committee feel that a process should be initiated whereby the burden of legitimate election expenses at present borne by the candidate or the political party would be progressively shifted to the State".

In keeping with the Committee's views, namely that the burden of election expenses should be gradually shifted from the candidates to the state, the Committee has recommended the following further measures to be taken :

"(i) Five copies of electoral rolls instead of two, should be supplied free of

charge to every recognised political party, not later than the date of notification calling for an election.

(ii) Forms for appointment of polling agents and counting agents should be supplied free of charge to all contesting candidates at least a fortnight before the polling day.

(iii) Polling slips with necessary details indicating date, time and place of polling etc. should be got printed by the Election Commission and supplied to the political parties contesting candidates, at least 15 days before the date of poll, for distribution to the voters".

The Report is being examined by the Government.

Shortage of Wagons for Transportation of Iron and Cement

1266. **SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :**
SHRI M. M. JOSEPH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an acute shortage of supply of Railway wagons this year for transporting iron and cement from the centres of production to different parts of the country ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) No.

(b) Supply of wagons for iron and steel industry is in keeping with the requirements. The overall supply of wagons for cement industry is also comparatively more. There has been marginal shortfall in despatch of cement in certain areas due to heavy demand for movement for high priority goods like foodgrains etc.

Electrified Metro-Gauge line between Baramula and Gazigund via Srinagar (Kashmir Valley)

1267. **SHRI NARENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide an electrified metre-gauge railway line between Baramula and Gazigund via Srinagar in Kashmir Valley;

(b) whether the feasibility and prospects of such an undertaking from economic point of view have been studied;