

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 12, 1991/
Asadha 21, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN
(Betul)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up the questions.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, may I request you to club my question—Question No. 11—with Question No. 1 which covers more or less identical grounds?

MR. SPEAKER: I think we may take it up later.

—19 Electoral Reforms

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*1. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the disturbing use of money and muscle

power and also abuse of administrative machinery during the recently held elections for Lok Sabha and some assemblies;

(b) the measures suggested in the past by the Election Commission as the needed electoral reforms to minimise the malpractices, the expenditure involved and the dates when these proposals were received by the Government;

(c) which of these proposals are under the Government's active consideration and what is the action plan in this regard; and

(d) whether these reforms would be introduced before elections for certain assemblies/Lok Sabha constituencies are held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement listing out the measures suggested by the Election Commission for elected reforms in the past and the reforms which have already been implemented by the Government is placed on the Table of the House.

The Government is committed to electoral reforms. However, in view of certain incidents in the last general elections, a greater indepth study is required and, therefore, no time-frame can be given as at present.

STATEMENT

The measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past are listed in Annexure-I. It is not possible at this stage to work out exact expenditure involved in implementing these measures. The proposals from Election Commission have

been received from time to time. Major proposals were received from the Commission in the years 1977, 1982 and 1990.

The reforms listed in Annexure-II have already been implemented. The other major reforms suggested by the Election Commission and other bodies were considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms constituted on the 1st February, 1990, and based on the accepted recommendations of the Committee, four Bills mentioned below, were introduced in Parliament in May, 1990, by the previous Government:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990
2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990
3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990
4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1991, which has since become an Act. (Act No. 11 of 1991).

ANNEXURE I

Main recommendations made by the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms

1. Introduction of Multi-purpose photo-identity cards to voters.
2. Amendment in the ceiling on election expenses.
3. Delimitation of constituencies and rotation of reserved seats.
4. Introduction of electronic voting machines.
5. Elimination of non-serious candidates.
6. Speedy disposal of Election Petitions.
7. State funding of elections.
8. Registration of political parties and compulsory audit.
9. Reduction of voting age.

10. Ban on candidates contesting from more than two constituencies.
11. Disqualification of persons with criminal records.
12. Prevention of disturbances at election meetings.
13. Prevention of fraudulent filing of nomination papers.
14. Measures to control the offence of booth capturing.
15. Countermanding of elections not to be resorted to on the death of an independent candidate.
16. The expenditure incurred by a political party to be included in computing the election expenses.
17. Separate electoral machinery under the control of Election Commission.
18. Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission.
19. Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc., to be on deputation to Election Commission.

ANNEXURE II

Recommendations already implemented

1. Reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and other Election Staff to be deemed to be on deputation to Election Commission for the period of election and to be subject to the control, superintendance and discipline of the Commission.
3. Disqualification section made more stiff by including offences under various laws.
4. Definition of political parties and provisions for their registration.

5. Provisions for use of electronic voting machines at elections.
6. Booth capturing made an offence with provision for countermanding of election.
7. Enhancement of punishment for causing disturbances at election meetings.
8. Number of proposers increased for election to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I regard it as a happy coincidence that the very first question that the Tenth Lok Sabha is taking up, pertains to a matter in respect of which my senior colleague Shri Vajpayee and our Party have been campaigning since over two decades. And this is the question of electoral reforms.

Sir, the answer given by the Government has referred to three or rather four specific Bills that have been introduced following the deliberations of the Goswami Committee. It was a Committee on which I had occasion to serve alongwith other senior Members of this House, including S/Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Indrajit Gupta.

In pursuance of that Committee's recommendations on electoral reforms, the Constitution 70th (Amendment) Bill, Constitution 71st (Amendment) Bill and the Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Bill, 1990 were introduced in Rajya Sabha. The fourth one has been passed. I would like to know specifically what is the Government's position in respect of these three Bills pending in the other House.

Constitution 70th (Amendment) Bill relates to the mode of appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, a mode which would ensure that the kind of controversies that the present Election Commission has involved itself in would never arise again. Constitution 71st (Amendment) Bill relates to delimitation of constituencies and rotation of Scheduled Caste seats.

Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Bill, 1990, of course, is a comprehensive Bill which seeks to deal with various electoral offences and malpractices.

I would like to know the new Government's stand on these three specific Bills because what is suggested in the answer seems to put off this whole question once again. When it says that the Government is committed to electoral reform, it is a platitude which makes no commitment. It goes on to say, "However, in view of certain incidents in the last general election, a greater indepth study is required. Therefore, no time frame can be given at present." This seems to suggest that the Government is keen to push the whole issue beneath the carpet. Now, I am concerned with three Bills which are pending in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to know where does the Government stand on these.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, the Government has no objection.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There is no mention about the electoral reforms in the President's Address also. What is the Government's intention in regard to this?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: That is a different thing. The intention of Government is to go through the Electoral Reforms Bill as early as possible. We are also particular that this should be done.

As far as these three Bills pending before the other House are concerned, we broadly agree with them. The indepth study which we have mentioned in the answer is for the number of incidents that have cropped up in the recently held election like the money power, booth capturing and so on. We are trying to get report from various States and also from the Election Commission so that we can come before the House with a comprehen-

sive reform. As far as these three Bills that are pending before Rajya Sabha are concerned, we have to go through some process and we will take them as early as possible.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Is the Government committed to passing these three Bills?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Yes.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Another aspect in which no amendment of law is necessary because the necessary amendment has taken place, relates to use of electronic voting machines. There are one-and-a-half lakh electronic voting machines manufactured at the cost of around Rs. 75 crores. They are all lying idle. Election Commission failed to use them because they say that elections have come upon them very suddenly. I would like to know what is the Government's approach in this regard because according to an assessment made by the Election Commission itself, if these electronic machines are used it would mean a saving of Rs. 40 crores for the Lok Sabha election and another saving of Rs. 40 crores for the Assembly elections as it would eliminate printing of ballot papers and such other things. I would like to know what is the Government's approach in this regard and if the Government's response is positive does it propose to use these electronic machines at the forth-coming by-elections. Does the Government propose to use them? This is my second question.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: The process which has been started takes quite a long time to extend it throughout the country. It is quite costly affair also.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: But the machines are already manufactured; the amount has already been spent.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Machines have been manufactured but they are not enough for the entire country. It will take three to four years. According to us, it

is a costly affair. We want to introduce it as early as possible but it will take three to four years. We need six lakh voting machines. The cost is very abnormal and it will take three to four years to implement them.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I have asked him about byelection and perhaps the Minister is not aware that even the Congress Party Manifesto has committed itself to the use of Electronic Voting Machines. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, I am not bothered about the use of Voting Machines. In fact we are going to the Election Commission to find out how many Machines they have got so that they can be used in the byelections. We have no objection. But that is the concern of the Election Commission. We will come before the House..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the new Government has not said anything new in its reply to our question. I have gone through the record of past proceedings. A similar question was asked in this House on 23rd March, 1990. Barring two points the entire answer has been repeated. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to these two points.

[*English*]

'Main recommendations of the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms'

[*Translation*]

The Election Commission has made these recommendations after the recent elections. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to two of these recommendations given is Annexure 1—

[*English*]

(1) Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission, (2) Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc., to be on deputation to Election Commission.

[*Translation*]

Apart from these, has the Election Commission made any recommendations in view of the elections held recently? As the hon. Minister has said in his reply and as mentioned by Shri Advani—

[*English*]

These were certain incidents in the last General Election. What are those incidents?

[*Translation*]

Sir, do these incidents include the actions of the Election Commission which have become the subject of controversy leading to talk of initiating impeachment proceedings against the Chief Election Commissioner? If this is not included then which are the incidents?

Sir, both of us have been elected, but our First task is to take stock of the election expenditure. I am sad to say that newly-elected M.Ps. have to start their Parliamentary life by accounting for expenditure incurred in their election. Elections cannot be contested within the existing limits set on expenditure. The amount spent by the party is not taken into account. Elections are contested on the strength of black money. Ours is no more a democracy because money is playing a dominant role in elections but the Government has not taken any decision with regard to electoral reforms. May I know Government's view in this matter? Will the hon. Minister give an assurance that the reforms will be implemented before the next elections which may be held anytime?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this is the first day of the Tenth Lok Sabha and the hon. Member wants us to do all these things in a day. We will need some time for amending the People's Representation Act and also so many

other things. We want time to study and will come before the House with a comprehensive Bill.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: How much time do you need?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: We cannot tell this because we want the requests to come from various States and also from the CEC. Then only we can go through that. After going through that we will see that a legislation that can stand for 20-30 years be brought forward. Merely bringing in a legislation is no use. What the hon. Member says is correct. The expenditure involved on elections is much higher than the limitation. Unfortunately that is a fact. We have to amend it. It will take quite some time to go through all these things.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Can you club Q. No. 11 with this question?

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you a supplementary.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: In order to avoid the abuse of the administrative machinery, the main recommendation has been practically accepted by all the parties. The main recommendation is the introduction of multipurpose-photo identity-cards to voters. That will avoid the impersonation and what is popularly known as bogus voting. Why is the Government not thinking of immediately introducing it or accepting it or implementing this proposal?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: This is one of the methods where we can avoid that; and that is one of the points that has been accepted by the Government. But, as I told you earlier, it will take some time. These machines have to be manufactured for the whole country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE: What machines?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: It will take some time. We are considering seriously this aspect also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the question asked by Shri Advani and Shri Vajpayee during Question-Hour relates to misuse of administrative machinery, money power and muscle power during elections. My contention is that this time, besides misuse of administrative machinery, cases of misuse of its powers by the Election Commission have also come to light. I think this is an extremely serious situation. The code of conduct should not be limited to the administrative officials and candidates but should also be applicable to the Election Commission. The Election Commission postponed the Punjab elections at the last moment without consulting any of the Opposition leaders. I don't know whether those sitting on the Treasury Benches were consulted. I am afraid that with the postponement of elections by three months the election process may come to sought because in the meanwhile one candidate is likely to be killed in each of the constituencies. Following the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi the second phase of the elections was postponed to 12th and 15th June. The Election Commission may have postponed the elections for a genuine reason but it should have consulted the leaders of all parties before fixing the dates. It seemed as if we were fighting an election against the Election Commission. In these circumstances the Election Commission should not be allowed to continue its present attitude. Will a code of conduct be laid down for the Election Commission also? Considering the way in which electoral irregularities were allowed by the present Chief Election Commissioner*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Will he be asked to tender his resignation? Otherwise we shall have to think of taking some other steps.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The name may not go on record.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: Actually, the question posed by the hon. Member is little beyond the scope of this question. However, we have observed that there should be some sort of guidelines also for the conduct of the Election Commission and its Officers, etc. When we go through the reforms issue, we can go through it also. But on the specific observation regarding postponement of Punjab elections, that is a matter in which the Chief Election Commissioner has taken a conscious decision keeping in mind the various reports that were at this disposal. Our Government was not there at that time. Our Government was formed only the next day. The Government at that time had ensured ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But the decision was taken on the previous night. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: I said, the next day. They were not willing to hear the words: 'the next day.' (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: What is according to your statement? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR-RAMANGALAM: I said, the next day.

But the issue is whether or not that was a proper decision or improper decision, we can categorically say that it is argued, that it was a right decision and it was based on information that was collected and available at the disposal of the Chief Election Commissioner. Whether or not

there should be some norms laid down for functioning, definitely that would be considered when the in-depth study is done on electoral reforms.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am shocked to hear the observation of the Minister of State for Law. The Election Commission never consulted the Government, the Government that was there at that time. Nor was there any report with the Election Commission based on which the elections of Punjab could have been postponed. The elections were postponed because of a decision of the Election Commission which took on its own prompted by whom, I do not know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was an observation that was made and it was not a question. It was a statement of fact from the former Prime Minister. Let me go on record to say that I have never said that the Chief Election Commissioner had consulted the former Government or not. All I said was that the CEC took a decision, a conscious decision, on the basis of the information that was available at his disposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: For the Lok Sabha elections and also for the Assembly elections a lot of independent candidates have been filing their nominations. When an independent candidate gets killed or dies then the election process will be postponed. I want to know from the Government whether it is contemplating any change in this procedure.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: How can there be any change in the procedure? (*Interruptions*) About independent candidates it is under the consideration of the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question is, in view of the fact that more than 100 left activities of Tripura were murdered by the ruling party

before the elections, whether the Government is prepared to set up a committee of all parties from Parliament to enquire into the situation and report back. And secondly, he has said that impeachment is not possible. We would still demand it. And the withholding of the result of Munger seat is definitely an act of vindictive nature. I want to state it clearly. He should take note of it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly I am constrained to say that we have not taken any decision on the question at all, whether an all-India Committee should enquire into it or not. But we are of the opinion that the CEC happens to be a constitutional authority. It is not an authority which is under the Government, for us to stand by and say that this is right or wrong. But one thing is certain. With regard to the observation made on the Munger election, I understand that the Chief Election Commissioner called for reports, that he is looking into the matter and he would take a decision at the proper time. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: It was done after the counting had been completed.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARANGALAM: It is true that counting had been completed but after the counting you..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

It is for the CEC to decide. The decision of the CEC is awaited. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Actually, these are very important questions relating to the very fundamental basic principles which govern the whole conduct of democracy in our country. I think that the Government will take it very seriously because all the reforms have been suggested in view of the past experience. What I am specifically asking is this.

Besides many electoral reforms, if the Chief Election Commissioner himself becomes a matter of universal controversy and if he not only behaves arbitrarily but also dictatorially by countermanding elections, by postponing elections, by even not consulting on very basic issues ... (*Interruptions*) I am not naming any person. The office can always be put to question. I am not taking the name of the person. Will the Government, before appointing the Chief Election Commissioner, consult the leaders of the main parties in Parliament and also may be the Chief Justice of India so that he can function with impartiality, which is the crux of our democracy?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Constitution Seventieth Amendment Bill 1990 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30th May 1990. In fact, the leader of the Opposition Shri Advani had specifically asked a question, whether the Government is going to press for those Bills and get them passed. We have made a commitment just now saying 'yes'. That Bill specifically provides for the manner of the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. That Bill provides for that the President would, after in consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the leader of the Opposition, etc., appoint the Chief Election Commissioner. The Chief Justice is not provided for in that Bill. This was the decision that was arrived at after the All Party Committee went into it and gave its specific recommendations. We stand by this. This was the consensus of all parties put together. We are going to press this Bill to be moved and passed. Once this Bill becomes a law, the Chief Election Commissioner's appointment would not be only in the hands of the Government but definitely it would be done in consultation with the Rajya Sabha Chairman, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the leader of the Opposition, etc. and also the leaders of the largest groups. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*].

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to Begusarai and Munger ... (*Interruptions*)... On what ground the case of Begusarai has been cleared, while that of Munger has been with held... (*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of Shri Buta Singh. You should ask only when your name is called.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very first question asked in the Lok Sabha by the Leader of the Opposition and two great leaders of the BJP, shows a very good development, that the original question has been asked in English. I think that BJP's attitude towards English has... (*Interruptions*) This question concerns a very important national issue. It states that the use of money and muscle power have given a severe setback to the electoral system in India and we are very much concerned about it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in the elections which were held recently, religion was misused more than money and muscle power. Are the posters depicting election symbol alongwith the picture of Lord Rama, pasted on the walls, of less concern? If these things are serious threat to the unity, integrity and democracy: will the Government—whenever an amendment is introduced—see to it that religion is not misused. What would the hon. Minister like to say in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: It is for this reason we said that we need an indepth study. After getting reports from various States and also CEC, all aspects which affect the elections will be considered. This aspect also will be considered along with money power and booth capturing. We will consider all aspects and come before the House with a comprehensive Bill which will provide for all these things in order to have free and fair elections.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Advani's question concerns the proposed reforms in elections and the corrupt practices during elections. The Election Commission has laid a ceiling of Rs. 1.50 lakh as election expenses. At places where elections were postponed in order to look into the alleged use of corrupt practices election campaign had to be prolonged for twenty days. Has the Election Commission clarified whether the expenses incurred during this period would be included in the expenditure or not for the purpose of ceiling? It is also an example of corruption. Secondly, I would like to submit that...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government the directions issued by the Election Commission in this regard?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Though the question is quite relevant in the sense that there was in fact extension of time for the elections, the law as it stands will apply...*(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has already taken half an hour. My submission to you is that a separate Half-an-Hour discussion should be allowed on this question, because a number of Members have yet to put their supplementaries on this question...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DILEEP SHINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear that there has been widespread misuse of administrative machinery during the tenth Lok Sabha elections. After the Election Commission declared dates for elections, many State Governments ordered transfers of

district level Officers. In spite of the directions given by the Election Commissioner, these transfers were not cancelled. Which State Governments have disobeyed these directions and what action is being taken against them? Whatever law may be enacted in this regard, no State Government will obey the directions. I would like to know from you whether the Government would enforce the norms strictly on administrative side?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The hon. Member's observation on misuse of official machinery and administrative machinery is quite relevant because there have been instances where transfers have been made after the CEC had indicated that it would not be in the interest of free and fair elections. But we have not got all the information. We will need a separate notice really to reply to this.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the number of non-serious candidates, i.e. independent candidates is ever increasing election after election which is leading to very big ballot papers and confusing the illiterate voters and more time for counting process. The serious candidates will purchase the voters list but non-serious candidates will not purchase the voters list. So, the Election Commission has itself suggested that non-serious candidates should be eliminated. But, they have suggested that the security deposit should be increased. I want to ask the Government whether the Government will take necessary steps so that the independent candidates should purchase at least one copy of the voters list and file that receipt before scrutiny.
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, this is a point which is under the consideration of the Government. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Shri Buta Singh asked the hon. Minister whether it was true that besides the use of money and muscle power, votes were sought in the name of Lord Rama. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister and all the political parties whether it was not true that except the Bhartiya Janata Party, leaders of all other political parties contacted Maulana Bukhari and requested him to issue a directive to Muslim community to cast votes in their favour...*(Interruptions)*... In the last elections, all of them requested Maulana Bukhari and he issued the directive and said that...*(Interruptions)*... He asked the people to cast the vote in a particular manner and made an appeal to defeat BJP. Was it justified? Will the hon. Minister treat it as misuse of religion and take steps to check such malpractices?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a question, but an observation. I used to go on record to say that this system is unfair and untrue.

Export of Handloom and Powerloom Textiles

*2. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to export of handloom and powerloom textiles during the last two years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the export of the handloom and powerloom textiles has declined due to the recent Gulf crisis; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the exports?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, Cotton handloom and powerloom textiles exports during the last two years were as under:—

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	1989-90	1990-91
Cotton Handloom Exports . . .	342	407
Cotton Powerloom Exports . . .	412	529

(c) and (d) The recent Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on our cotton handloom and powerloom textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the Government...*(Interruptions)*... it has been stated that the textile exports during 1990-91 increased considerably...*(Interruptions)*... Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the increase in exports is because of rise in the prices or increase in the quantity exported? If the information is available with him, he may please let us know...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complete details about exports have been given in the reply. There is continuous increase in exports since 1988-89, therefore it can be said that the Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on the textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Gulf crisis did not have any effect on the exports, but as per my infor-