

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINI-STER OF STATE IN THE MINI-STRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANG-ALAM): (a) A statement showing the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 30-6-1991 is enclosed.

(b) None.

### STATEMENT

#### *Vacancies of Judges as on 30-6-1991*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>High Court</i>	<i>Vacancies</i>
1.	Allahabad . . . . .	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	5
3.	Bombay . . . . .	7
4.	Calcutta . . . . .	4
5.	Delhi . . . . .	1
6.	Gauhati . . . . .	2
7.	Gujarat . . . . .	..
8.	Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir . . . . .	..
10.	Karnataka . . . . .	4
11.	Kerala . . . . .	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	6
13.	Madras . . . . .	2
14.	Orissa . . . . .	..
15.	Patna . . . . .	6
16.	Punjab & Haryana . . . . .	1
17.	Rajasthan . . . . .	3
18.	Sikkim . . . . .	1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>		<b>50</b>
<b>I Supreme Court . . . . .</b>		<b>3</b>

*65-81*  
Price Rise *Inflation*

19. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISH-NAN:  
SHRI AMAR ROYPRAD-HAN:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUK-HERJEE:  
SHRI SOBHANADREES-WARA RAO VADDE:  
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest consumer price index for essential commodities;

(b) whether the price rise continues unabated;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring down the prices to July, 1990 level within 100 days as promised;

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The latest All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI) (Base: 1982=100) is 204 for May, 1991. The up-trend in prices manifest in the last financial year still persists. The CPI has increased by 1.5 per cent during the current financial year upto May, 1991 as against the increase of 2.8 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base: 1981-82=100) has increased by 2.0 per cent upto June 22, 1991, as against 3.9 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

(c) to (e) The Government attaches the highest priority to control inflation as it hurts everybody, particularly the poor whose incomes are not indexed. Various steps have been taken in this regard which include

fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money supply, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers. These measures are expected to have desirable effects on prices.

[Translation]

61 — 64 Election

### Recommendation regarding electoral reforms

20. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Election Commission in regard to electoral reforms;

(b) whether the Government propose to implement these recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A statement listing out the measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past and the reforms which have already been implemented by the Government is given below.

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 Petition.
7. State funding of elections.