

AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) There is no section 195 in the Representation of the People Act, 1951. However, a proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the said Act to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties. This is one of the additional proposals on Electoral Reforms which are under discussion with leaders of various political parties.

[Translation]

Hotel Expenses of Officers of CIL

5405. PROF. RITA VERMA:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on payment of Hotel bills of the officers of B.C.C.L. during their visits to Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai or other cities during the last three years;

(b) whether the guest houses of Coal India Ltd. are located in these cities;

(c) if so, the area-wise number thereof and the details of annual expenditure incurred on them during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check wasteful expenditure by asking all officers of B.C.C.L. to stay in Government Guest Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The expenditure incurred during the last three years on payment of hotel bills of the officers of BCCL are as under:

1994—95	1995—96	1996—97 (upto Dec. 96)
Rs. 21,29,870	Rs. 24,18,398	Rs. 17,20,292

(b) Coal India maintains guest houses at Calcutta and New Delhi.

(c) Details of expenditure on CIL guest houses are as under:-

Location	Number of Guest Houses	Annual Expenditure (Rs. in lakh) during last three years		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (provn.)
Calcutta	6	22.57	22.31	22.45
Delhi	5	35.69	33.27	35.06

(d) Necessary instructions have already been given by BCCL to all officers in BCCL to stay in guest houses where these are available. In case no accommodation is available in guest houses, non-availability certificates are issued by concerned authorities for making their arrangement for stay in hotel.

[English]

Election Commission

5406. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Electoral Officers of various States and Union Territories have proposed that powers to make rules to conduct polls be rested with the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not favour the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Judges

5407. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to amend the existing policy of appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the outlines of the decision taken by a bench of nine judges of Supreme Court recently;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the various political parties for the proposed amendments; and

(d) if so, the details of their views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conclusions arrived at by the majority judgement are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The draft Constitution (Eighty Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 has accordingly been circulated to members of Lok Sabha. A process of consultation has been initiated to evolve a consensus in this matter.