

tion of Joginder Nagar Power House to Punjab was made on the basis of decisions taken after the discussions between the then Minister for Irrigation and Power and the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh on 19th April, 1967 at New Delhi, it would not be possible to reopen the issue.

**Committee to plan better collaboration  
between Research Laboratories  
and Industries**

\*18. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a committee for preparation of a plan to establish better collaboration between research laboratories and industries; and

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Electronic Voting Machine**

\*19. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally cleared the introduction of electronic voting machines for use in elections;

(b) if so, when this system will actually be put to use;

(c) whether the rural people in the country will be able to cast their votes through these machines; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) and (b). A preliminary decision has been taken by Government to introduce electronic voting machines in elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. It is proposed to hold consultations with political parties shortly

and a final decision will be taken on the matter after such consultation.

(c) and (d). The operation of the machines is simple and it has already been tried successfully in assembly elections earlier. However, while holding consultations with political parties, all aspects concerned with the introduction of electronic voting machines including operational factors could be kept in view.

**Voluntary Civil Code**

\*20. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :  
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the Law Ministry to speed up the work connected with a voluntary civil code;

(b) if so, whether the Law Ministry had initiated wide ranging public debate on the subject;

(c) whether the opinion of the various organisations in this regard has been obtained by the Ministry; and

(d) by what time the final decision in introducing the voluntary civil code is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) and (d). The Prime Minister has not given any direction except that the question of drafting a uniform Civil Code should be considered urgently. A group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development has been considering the draft on a uniform Civil Code. No final draft has yet been settled by the Group. After the final draft is settled the Government will consider the same and after its approval a Bill would be introduced in Parliament.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Only the views of the Bar Council of India has been received. No other organisation has yet sent their views to the Government. All the views communicated