

talists and ecologists regarding destruction of the Silent Valley forest, which is one of the only remaining tropical rain forests in the world, the Government of Kerala has been requested to stop further work till the matter is discussed with the State Government.

**Persons Deprived from voting in 1980 Lok Sabha Elections**

\*31. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that many persons were deprived of voting during the 1980 Lok Sabha election;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such persons in each State and Union Territory;

(c) in which State the missing number of voters was higher;

(d) whether it was also brought to the notice of the Election Commission that names were printed but were cut in red ink;

(e) whether this omission of names of voters from the voting list was the first of its kind; and

(f) the persons held responsible for this act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Complaints were received in the Election Commission on the dates of poll and subsequently, regarding the omission/deletion of names of eligible voters from the electoral rolls.

(b) and (c). Most of the complaints are of general nature alleging large scale omission of names in the electoral rolls. It has therefore, been not possible to ascertain the correctness of the complaints or the total number of persons whose names are alleged to have been omitted or deleted from

the rolls or the State in which the missing of voters was higher.

(d) Some complaints of this nature were also brought to the notice of the Election Commission. According to the instructions issued by the Commission only supplements to the existing rolls were prepared during the current revision of electoral rolls. The supplements to the rolls consist of (1) additions, (2) corrections, and (3) deletions. The deletion of names in red ink in the basic electoral rolls is on the basis of the list of deletions prepared during the revision of rolls and contain the names of persons who have left the place or are not available at the time of enumeration, or are dead etc.

(e) No Sir. During the previous revision of electoral rolls also complaints of this nature were received.

(f) Wherever specific cases of omission or deletion of names in the electoral rolls are received, it will be possible to make an enquiry and fix responsibility for the alleged omission of names, or failure to register names of eligible persons.

**Scheme for Legal Aid for the Poor**

\*32. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some decision was taken by the previous Government to finalise a scheme for giving legal aid to the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the present Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.