

(c) if so, whether any probe in this regard has been made by the Government or Government propose to issue some directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT HE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It has been reported that Shri Ratnakar Bharti is an Announcer with the BBC, Shri Bharti belongs to Madhya Pradesh and had come to his town on leave. On reading the news item published in the newspapers, the External Affairs Ministry immediately got in touch with the BBC bureau Chief in Delhi and enquired from him whether Shri Bharti was really an employee of the BBC. He immediately got in touch with his headquarters in London and reported to External Affairs Ministry that Shri Bharti was in some sort of contract employment with the BBC and that a suitable message had been delivered to him indicating that if he wished to participate in the Indian election campaign, he should dis-associate himself from the BBC.

Limit on poll expenses in 1980 Elections

68. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government took a decision to limit the poll expenses on the eve of the 1980 Elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). Rule 90 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 relating to the maximum limit of election expenses which may be incurred in a Parliamentary constituency and an Assembly constituency

in the various States and Union territories, was amended by this Ministry's Notification No. 767 (E) dated the 29th November, 1979, which raised the limit of such expenses. having regard to the fact that the limits which were fixed in 1971 had become unrealistic. A copy of the said notification is laid on the Table of the House.

(Placed in Library. See No LT—131/80)

बिहार राज्य के मुंगेर में किउल नदी से भू-कटाव

69 श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : क्या ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार राज्य के मुंगेर में पिछले अनेक वर्षों से किउल नदी से रेहभ्रा, ओलोपुर, रामचन्द्रपुर, मोहनपुर, खुटहा और अन्य गांवों में भू-कटाव हो रहा है ;

(ख) क्या इन गांवों में भू-कटाव रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इन गांवों में भू-कटाव रोकने के लिए कोई कारगर कार्यवाही करेगी ?

ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला विभाग मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खान चौधरी) : (क) से (ग) : सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायगी ।

Legal aid to the poor

70. SHRI K.A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various committees appointed by the previous Governments to make recommendations on a comprehensive legal aid to the poor programme have submitted their reports;