

LOK SABHA

Tuesday November 24, 1964/Agrahayana 3, 1886 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Questions. Q. No. 163.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I request that Q. 181 may also be taken up along with this?

Mr. Speaker: If it is convenient for the hon. Minister and if he thinks that the two questions can be linked up, he might answer them together.

Election Expenses

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 \*163. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:  
 Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of the existing rules and regulations relating to the elections to State Legislatures and Lok Sabha for depositing security, it is difficult for a poor man to contest elections; and

(b) if so, whether Government have under consideration any scheme to reduce the amount of such a deposit and bring the elections within the reach of every citizen?

1560 (Ai) LSD—1.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

General Elections in U.K.

\*181. Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a four-member delegation of the Election Commission went to the United Kingdom towards the end of September, 1964 to study the working of election machinery and party organisation and propaganda during the last General Elections in that country; and

(b) if so, the new ideas gained by the delegation which can be profitably introduced in this country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) and (b). The Chief Election Commissioner and three other election officers visited Britain at the invitation of the Government of that country to witness their general elections last month. It was not intended to be a study tour; nor were they expected to submit a report to the Government of India regarding their visit.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल के जवाब में कहा गया "नहीं"। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट ने यह पता लगाया कि कितने लैंडलेस पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर चुन कर आये हैं।

Shri Jaganatha Rao: We have no information about the landless persons who have come to Parliament.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया गया। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह था कि गरीब आदमी चुनाव का जो खर्च है उस को बर्दाश्त कर के पालियामेंट का चुनाव नहीं लड़ सकते हैं। इसलिए इस खर्च में और जमानत के खर्च में गवर्नमेंट को कमी करनी चाहिये। इस के बारे में मुझे कोई जवाब नहीं मिला।

**विधि तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्री (श्री अ० कु० सेन) :** इस के बारे में विभिन्न मत हो सकते हैं। लेकिन इस का पता हमें नहीं लगा कि खर्च को वजह से कोई आदमी पालियामेंट का मੈम्बर नहीं चुना गया।

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** In the light of the experience gained by our election delegation in the UK elections recently, may we know whether the candidates for election in that country manage to keep their election expenses below the prescribed limit or whether the tendency to go above that limit is the same in that country as it is here?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** I do not think that we have to draw from the experience of other countries at all to see how far we can enforce the limit on expenditure which is prescribed by our laws.

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** Are Government aware that the Members of Parliament are under debts as a result of heavy expenses in the elections?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Not after the salary increase.

**Shri A. K. Sen:** The hon. Minister as such has no knowledge.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the circumstances are such that many Members of Parliament have to spend more, but unfortunately while submitting their return of election expenses, they have to take a wrong oath?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** The candidates for elections should know the

maximum limit of the expenditure that has to be incurred. If knowing that they exceed and they give a false statement, how can we help that?

**Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** May I know whether the Election Commission have also examined the question of reducing the election expenses under other items, and if so, the concrete suggestions before the Election Commission in this respect?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Parliament itself has considered it on many occasions, and it has passed a law having regard to everything, and it is expected that the law will be observed.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** क्या यह बात सही है कि जो एलेक्शन एक्स्पेंसेज होने चाहियें उन से ज्यादा खर्च पड़ जाता है और इसके लिए जो रिटर्न दिये जाते हैं उन में पूरा व्यय नहीं दिखलाया जाता। यदि यह सही है तो क्या गवर्नमेंट यह आवश्यक समझती है कि निर्वाचन व्यय देने के नियम को हटा दिया जाये।

**श्री अ० कु० सेन :** आशा की जाती है कि गैर कानूनी एक्सपेंडिचर नहीं किया जायेगा।

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** There may be some, but not all.

**श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :** इसी सदन में माननीय विधि मंत्री ने कई बार ऐसा कहा था कि हम लोग चुनाव सम्बन्धी कानूनों में सुधार करना चाहते हैं और इस के लिये खर्च की जो सीमा रक्खी गई है उस प्रतिबन्ध को हटा दिया जायेगा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यदि इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने फैसला कर लिया है तो वह क्या है और आवश्यक परिवर्तन कब किये जायेंगे।

**श्री अ० कु० सेन :** मुझे विश्वास है कि कानून से यह चीज नहीं तय हो सकती।

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the attention of the hon.

Minister has been drawn to the statement by the Chief Election Commissioner after visiting the U.K. and seeing the elections there, that the election expenses in India are the lowest? But may I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that here a candidate has to beg, borrow or steal even to contest elections, and if so, what steps have been taken to prevent such a thing?

**An Hon. Member:** Steal also?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I have used the word 'steal' not in that sense, but in another sense.

I would like to know what positive steps have been taken to see that the election expenses on propaganda are reduced?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** It all depends upon the candidate. When the maximum limit on the expenses that he has to legally incur is known to him, if he spends more, how can we help that?

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात का पता लगाया कि हमारे देश में जो प्रमुख योग-पति हैं उन के द्वारा भेजे गये कितने ऐसे लोग हैं जिन की उन्होंने चुनाव व्यय में मदद की और जिन के पास लाखों की सम्पत्ति है, और वे पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य चुन कर आये हैं।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यह कैसा सवाल है।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** यह बड़े महत्व का सवाल है। मंत्री महोदय जवाब दे रहे हैं।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मैं यह तो नहीं कह सकता कि यह महत्व का सवाल नहीं है। अगर मंत्री महोदय जवाब दे रहे हैं तो दें। क्या उन को पता है कि ऐसे कितने सदस्य हैं जिन को लखपतियों ने भेजा है।

**Shri A. K. Sen:** This is not the function of the Election Commission.

**श्री बड़े :** क्या यह बात सत्य है कि हमारे क्षेत्र में जो आदिवासी और हरिजन हैं उन को एलेक्शन एक्स्पेंसेज देने में बड़ी कठिनाई होती है जिस से उन के एलेक्शन सेट असाइड हो जाते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि आदिवासियों को एलेक्शन एक्स्पेंसेज भी दिये जाने चाहियें। क्या इस पर शासन कोई विचार कर रहा है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आदिवासियों को देना चाहिये, मैं भी आप को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Do Government know that deposit or no deposit, the election expenses in this country are beyond the reach of 90 per cent of the general mass of citizens without the aid of a big party such as the Congress? If so, what steps Government propose to take to bring elections within the reach of an average citizen?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** For the weaker section of society, the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes, the security deposit is half of that of other candidates. To that extent, Government have shown a concession. Regarding the expenditure to be incurred, Government cannot give any assurance.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** The expenditure incurred by political parties is not accountable. Have Government any idea as to what the various political parties have spent?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** We have no information.

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Some have spent more than others.

**श्री भागवत झा आजाद :** जबकि हिन्दुस्तान के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति स्वर्गीय डॉ॰ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद ने, अन्य छोटी के नेताओं ने और स्वयं विधि मंत्री जी ने यह विचार प्रकट किया है कि आज के चुनाव बहुत महंगे होते जा रहे हैं, इस स्थिति में बजाय इस बात पर विचार करने के कि निर्वाचन व्यय को कम करने का कोई इन्तजाम किया जाये,

माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात को कहने पर क्यों तुले हुए हैं कि चुनाव महंगे नहीं होते जा रहे हैं। क्या कारण है इस का, क्या कोई नई परिस्थिति आ गई है।

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** It is not for Government to move in the matter; it is for political parties to decide that the expenses should not exceed a particular limit.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** The hon. Minister should understand the question and then reply. It is not a matter of saying anything in reply to a question. Let Shri Sen reply to the question.

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** I have understood the question and replied.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** I said that the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad and other leaders have said openly that the elections are becoming costlier. Even now, all leaders including Shri Sen have expressed their opinion on these lines. Instead of finding a solution to the problem, why does the Minister say that it is not costly?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** I am sorry that the hon. Member has got an impression that there was any attempt not to answer the question. What possibly my colleague had meant was that the matter has been agitated for quite a long time. We have discussed it here on several occasions. Government have considered the matter on several occasions and are still considering it. But it is very difficult to say, as I said on many occasions here, that mere change in law would serve the purpose which the hon. Member has in view.

There is a good deal of truth in the statement made by my colleague that it is really a convention which has to be set up and rigidly followed by different political parties not to compete with each other in the matter of expenditure at the time of elections. If parties build up such a convention and follow it truly, I am sure that would be proper answer to the problem.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** The hon. Minister and his deputy seem to think that the Government have very little to do with finding ways and means to reduce election expenses.

**Shri A. K. Sen:** No.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Have they made any study of this subject as to what is being done in other countries such as France where a lot of expenditure incurred by the candidates is met by the Government? Those candidates who poll a certain percentage of votes are given after the election the expenditure incurred by them. Also certain publicity material is furnished by Government. Have all these aspects and certain suggestions made in this regard by political parties been considered by Government? If so, what is their reaction?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** In the two reports issued by the Election Commission there is reference to this problem, and both reports indicate that mere prescribing the limit of expenditure would not serve the purpose.

So far as other countries are concerned, it is a fact that we did make a study of it, and we find that compared to our country, election expenses in the United States and England appear to be much higher. So far as reimbursement of expenditure by the Government is concerned, we have never considered the proposition, and I do not think it will be possible to consider it, . . .

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Why don't you reimburse the successful candidates?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** . . . because there are other important matters to attend to than reimbursement of candidates for the expenditure incurred by them at the time of election.

Secondly, the political parties have met the Chief Election Commissioner on several occasions, and I am very sorry to say that they have not up till now put forward any concrete

suggestions before the Election Commission on this subject; if they do, I have no doubt that the matter will be given the utmost of consideration by the Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** May I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister on this point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next time he might try.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** I want to ask a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** So many have not been given that opportunity.

#### Unloading Facilities at Ports

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- \*164. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**  
**Shri R. G. Dubey:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri K. N. Tiwary:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 333 on the 22nd September, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the unloading facilities at ports to handle the amount of grain that is to be imported within the next two or three months are still far from adequate; and

(b) if so, the immediate steps proposed to be taken to improve matters in this regard so that foodships do not get unnecessarily held up at the ports as in the past few months?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan):** (a) It is not a fact that unloading facilities at ports are inadequate to handle the quantity of grain which is being imported.

(b) Government, however, considered that it was possible to improve the pace of discharge from ships so that quicker turn-round of ships could be effected. After full examination, steps have been taken to purchase a number of discharging machines from abroad. Simultaneously, certain berths at some of the major ports have been permanently earmarked for receiving bulk food-grains and certain modifications in these sheds are being made. It is considered that all the machines ordered from abroad will be available by the middle of January 1965 and the modifications in these sheds would also have been made by them.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Is it a fact that in June last this Ministry took a firm decision to import certain mechanical grain handling machines from Switzerland, but the orders for the same were actually not placed till the end of September? May we know the reasons for this inordinate delay in placing the order?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam):** The suitability of the machines had to be finalised, and also we had to find the necessary foreign exchange.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Is it a fact that a team of American maritime experts submitted a report very recently, suggesting certain short-term solutions for our problem of port operations? May we know if those recommendations lay emphasis on administrative reforms only, or do they also suggest some immediate augmentation of machinery and equipment for our ports?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, they recommended the augmentation of machinery to a certain extent. All that has been considered, and we have placed orders for the machinery, and it has been stated in the main answer that these would become available by the middle of January.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** May I know whether Government is considering the feasibility of utilising other than major ports like Karwar and Goa,