

ment". May I request you to see that this new cover of "embarrassment" is not resorted to in future?

Mr. Speaker: I have already advised the Minister of Defence that this information should not be denied on that account. I have already said it, if only the Member has heard it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: They should not do it in future also.

Mr. Speaker: What I have said is for the future and not for the past.

Shri Krishna Menon: No information is being denied. I was asked to express an opinion as to which was the better coach. That is for the consumer to decide. As mentioned in the statement, the coach manufactured by the Defence Ministry is different from the other coach.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Priya Gupta: I have been rising so many times.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I will take more care in future.

Simultaneous Voting for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

*553. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ballot papers for Lok Sabha and Assembly voting were given to the voters simultaneously;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a number of voters did not know the difference between the two ballot papers; and

(c) whether it is proposed to provide separate boxes for Lok Sabha and Assembly voting in future?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra): (a) The Assembly ballot paper was as a rule given to the vot-

er first and after he had marked it and put it into the ballot box, the Parliamentary ballot paper was given to him.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Election Commission does not at present consider it necessary to have two separate ballot boxes for the two elections when held simultaneously.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय ने सारे हिन्दुस्तान के सूबों से इस बात का पता लगाया है कि मत-दाताओं को ब्रैलट-पेपर किस प्रकार दिये जाते थे - एक साथ दिये जाते थे या अलग-अलग दिये जाते थे ।

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: Instructions were issued by the Election Commission that they should not be given simultaneously and no complaint has been received by the Commission that at any place there was any departure from this.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the observations made by the Prime Minister at the time when he went to cast his vote in Allahabad that this was a very bad system of having one box and two ballot papers? If so, may I know whether the Minister has taken note of it and what is the opinion of the Election Commission?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: It is a matter for the Election Commission to decide under the statute.

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether this particular fact was brought to the notice of the Election Commission and whether the Commission have expressed any opinion about it.

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: I have no informatoin.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is the Government aware that the provision of two ballot boxes will result in considerable delay for exercising the votes?

Mr. Speaker: These are suggestions being made.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I do not know, Sir, what the Election Commission thinks but even I, a candidate for Lok Sabha, was given two ballot papers at one and the same time and I was asked to register my votes there and then. I do not know how it is that the hon. Minister....

Mr. Speaker: Is there any question to be asked?

Shri D. C. Sharma: Yes, Sir. Is it not a fact that....

Mr. Speaker: That he has answered already.

Shri D. C. Sharma: No, Sir. I want to know whether....

Mr. Speaker: On the strength of his own experience he wants to contradict what the Minister has said.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I want to know whether any report from the Punjab has come to the notice of the Election Commission saying that the voting papers for the Lok Sabha and the Assembly were given to the voters at one and the same time?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: As I have already stated, no such complaint was received by the Election Commission from any State in India.

श्री अक्षय सिंह : १९५७ में जो चुनाव हुआ था उसमें लोक सभा के और विधान सभाओं के पर्चे अलग अलग दिये गये थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वजह है कि इस बार दोनों के एक साथ दिये गये ?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: As the rule states, Sir, the Election Commission from time to time devise new methods and they also try to reduce the cost. If at all at any time difficulty is experienced, I am sure the matter will be considered by the Election Commission and they will look into it.

Shri Thirumala Rao: With regard to part (b) of the question, has the

attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that millions of votes have become invalid, and have they ascertained whether the question put in part (b) is responsible for such a thing?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: The answer to part (b) has already been given. It is in the negative.

Mr. Speaker: What about the first part, whether there was a very large number of votes that became invalid?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: As I said, Sir, there have been of course many defective ballot papers, but it has not been ascribed to the giving of ballot papers simultaneously to the voters.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether it is a fact that in some cases the parliamentary voting papers were given first and in some other cases the Assembly voting papers were given first?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister does not admit it.

श्री राम सेवक दादर : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या चुनाव आयोग के सामने इस तरह की व्यवस्था रखी गई है जिससे दोनों मत पेटियाँ अलग-अलग हो जायें और बैलट पेपर रद्द न हों ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसके बारे में उन्होंने कहा है कि अभी कोई तजवीज नहीं है कमिशन के पास ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या सरकार को कुछ ऐसे भी सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं कि लोक सभा और विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन भी पृथक पृथक हों क्योंकि दोनों विधान मंडलों का कार्य और सोचने का ढंग भी पृथक-पृथक है ?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: Sir, that would involve too much of cost, and that is also a matter for the Election Commission to decide. But at present elections have been held simul-

taneously and no difficulty has been experienced in the matter.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that counting of votes for Lok Sabha has taken double the time than it used to take earlier because of the one box system of voting? The Lok Sabha ballot papers and the Assembly ballot papers have to be separated first and then only counting can take place, and in West Bengal it has taken double the time than it used to take earlier.

Shri Bibundhendra Mishra: That depends upon the number of people that has been engaged for the purpose of counting. But the Returning Officers everywhere have taken due care to see that the counting was finished in time.

Joint Council in Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

*554. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to form Joint Council in Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). I presume the Hon'ble Member means a Joint Committee of Representatives of employers and employees. Such a Committee has not been constituted yet. The management is in consultation with the State Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister has met the Labour Minister and discussed this issue; if so, whether this council or committee is likely to be formed immediately to discuss the various problems?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sorry, Sir, I did not have the advantage of discussing this matter with the Labour

Minister of Madhya Pradesh because the proposed visit of the Minister was cancelled. But I hope to discuss it on a later date.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since the Madhya Pradesh Government is unfortunately a party to the dispute because of the particular recognised of the union, may I know whether the hon. Minister will discuss this matter with the Central Minister and arrive at a definite understanding about this?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether it is in the mind of the hon. Minister to discuss it further in the future with the Central and State Ministers.

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is what I said. At a later date, I hope to discuss it with the Labour Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that nearly 21 workers belonging to the union were served with show cause notice for dismissal? In the absence of any forum for discussion of their case, may I know how their grievances can be ventilated?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am afraid that is a completely separate question altogether. There are provisions in the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Relations Act for those who have been charge-sheeted and if they take any action the provisions of the law will apply.

Shri K. N. Pande: Can I take it that this Council will be utilised for resolving industrial disputes also?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The functions of the Joint Committee are laid down under law and they will be able to do only that and nothing more.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since the workers affected by this discharge belong to a union which is not recognized, may I know whether any