

Panchayati Raj Institutions in Maharashtra and Gujarat

***1575 Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) when new Panchayati Raj Institutions are to be established in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) whether a schedule for elections has been finalised; and

(c) whether these elections will be held on non-party lines?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). (i) Maharashtra; Election to Zila Parishads under the Maharashtra Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 have just been completed. Elections to Panchayat Samitis are expected to be completed during July-August, 1962. The elected institutions are expected to start functioning in August, 1962.

(ii) Gujarat: The new Panchayati Raj institutions are expected to be established by January, 1963. The State Government is taking the necessary preparatory steps in this regard.

(c) No provision exists in the Panchayati Raj Acts of the two States for keeping out political parties from elections to Panchayati Raj institutions. Political parties contested the recent elections to Zila Parishads in Maharashtra.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if the elections in Maharashtra are different from the general elections which we hold for the legislatures, whether they are going to cost the same to the candidates, and whether the entire electorate is involved in them?

Shri S. D. Misra: There are three kinds of elections. One is to the panchayats. This is direct election. The other is to the Block Samitis in which there is indirect election. And the third is to the Zilla Parishad for

which there is direct election: there is an electoral college in the district and there is direct election for the Zilla Parishad.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether all the elections which are to be held in Maharashtra now on the Panchayat Samiti level and the Panchayat level are going to be contested by political parties, and whether the various political parties have already selected candidates for participating in these elections?

Shri S. D. Misra: As regards the decision of the political parties to contest elections on the Panchayat Samiti level, our information is that at several places political parties are declaring their candidates and the elections are being contested on party lines. As regards the Panchayat elections, recently the All India Congress Committee has taken a decision that at the Panchayat level there should be no party line candidates. We do not know the position about the other parties.

Shri A. P. Jain: In some of the States there is a provision for holding direct elections on the basis of adult franchise to the Block Samities. What is the policy of the Government of India in this regard; do they want to encourage direct elections to the Block Samitis, or do they want to confine them only to the Panchayats and have indirect elections to the Block Samitis?

The Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri S. K. Dey): For the time being we have left the States free to evolve systems best suited to themselves. The intention of the Government of India is to carry out an all-India review of the various States after the Panchayati Raj has been put into operation in all the States.

Shri Heda: May I know what is the name of the State where direct election to the Block panchayat samiti is held on adult franchise?

Shri S. K. Dey: Mysore State.

Shri Man Singh Patel: The Gujerat Panchayat Act was passed much earlier than in Maharashtra. Is it not a fact that the Gujerat Panchayat Act, implementation is much more delayed?

Shri S. K. Dey: I have received assurances from the Chief Minister of Gujerat that Panchayati Raj will be implemented in that State before 1st January 1963. There are no complaints to make.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know under whose jurisdiction these elections are held: is it under the Central Government's jurisdiction or the State Government's?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The whole subject is under the State Government.

Shri Thirumala Rao: If it is under the State Government, how does he answer part (b) of the question? I want to know whether they are taking orders from here for finalising elections and all these things. I want to know how far this Ministry is responsible for all these questions.

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: We have not stated that the elections are conducted under the Central Government. Surely, even if the State Governments conduct elections, we have knowledge about them. We are informed about them. We are in a position to state the answer.

Shri P. R. Patel: What is the difference between the Zilla Panchayat Parishad and the District Local Board in Maharashtra? How can it be called Panchayati Raj?

Shri S. K. Dey: The difference is fundamental in the sense that the authority of the Government for all development matters has been vested in the Zilla Praishad which is quite different from the extremely limited circumscribed powers vested in the District Board earlier.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : क्या माननीय मंत्री के नोटिस में यह बात आयी है कि उत्तर

प्रदेश में जिला परिषदों के चुनावों में सरकारी अधिकारियों को वोट देने का अधिकार है? जैसा कि श्रीमती आपने फरमाया, कांग्रेस ने यह डाइरेक्टिव दिया है कि पंचायतों के चुनावों में कोई कांग्रेस दलीय आधार पर भाग नहीं लेगा। क्या आपको सूचना मिली है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कांग्रेस के लोग पंचायतों के चुनावों में दलीय आधार पर हिस्सा ले रहे हैं और उत्तर प्रदेश में जिला परिषदों के चुनावों में सरकारी अधिकारियों को वोट देने का अधिकार है?

श्री त्यागी : यह स्टेटमेंट माननीय सदस्य किसी अखबार के बेसिम पर दे रहे हैं या यह उनकी परसोनल नाविज है ?

Shri Sarjoo Pandey: I can prove it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The answer is coming from the Minister.

श्री श्यामधर मिश्र : शायद माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न का सम्बन्ध अन्तरिम जिला परिषदों से है। अन्तरिम जिला परिषदों में सरकारी अधिकारियों को वोट देने का अधिकार था। लेकिन जो नया पंचायती राज कानून लागू हुआ है और जो पूरी तरह से आगामी अगस्त से लागू होगा, उसमें सरकारी अधिकारियों को वोट देने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Is it a fact that some time back the hon. Minister Shri S. K. Dey himself made a statement to the effect that non-party elections in panchayats is not a practical proposition? If that is so, how is he going to help implementation of the recent decision of his own party?

Shri S. K. Dey: I did not say that it was not a practical proposition. I said that it is a very complex subject which will require collaboration of all political parties. We cannot impose it by any statutory procedures.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Sarjoo Pandey: May I put one question?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nath Pai rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. We have covered only 12 questions. I am in the hands of the House as they wish. I thought that the House had given me a directive that we should try to cover more. If that directive remains, I might be allowed to proceed. If that is not, a different directive may be given to me. I will proceed accordingly. I am just in the hands of the House.

Shri Nath Pai: It is only distribution. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I have no particular desire that I must cover so many. Rather, if am excused, I might just say, I would not like to repeat the words of the Speaker of the House of Commons, it is not considered dignified parliamentary procedure or practice to try to put supplementaries on questions that have been sponsored by others. We have developed this procedure. But, in the House of Commons, it is very seldom that one does not sponsor it but puts supplementaries. Very few supplementaries are allowed. I am not adhering to that. I only want that if the House wants me to cover 20 or 25 questions, they should co-operate and help me in doing so.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May we request, Sir, that supplementaries arising out of a question may kindly be distributed among all the groups in the House? This time, our group did not get a chance.

Shri Nath Pai: Distribution is always fair. It may be far from my mind or Mr. Kamath's mind to indicate or suggest even remotely that there was any kind of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry if he thinks so.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I think that at least the person who has put the question is entitled to ask more supplementary questions, because he has put the question with a particular purpose.

Mr. Speaker: I have been allowing two supplementary questions to every Member who has put the main question.

Shri Nath Pai: Three.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Three supplementary questions.

Mr. Speaker: I am allowing two supplementary questions. I may be allowed to complete what I am going to say. When there are not so many supplementary questions put by others, then I allow him a third one at the end.

The whole record will show that originally I have been allowing only two questions. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath has been making complaints, though not very loud, and I have been listening to that every time and I have found that he has been clamouring for three questions. But I have not allowed that. I have allowed only two supplementary questions to the person who has put the main question and only one to the others. In regard to this question which we are now having also, Shri Sarjoo Pandey and Shri A. P. Jain stood up for a second time, but I have not called them. I shall continue that practice, but it is for the House to decide if it wants a change.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Accident on Poona-Sholapur Section

S.N.Q. 20. Shri Tulsidas Jadhav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accident has occurred on the Poona-Sholapur Section between Mundhewadi and Pakni stations on the Seena Rinar Railway Bridge during last month;