Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members may be interested in it. So I allowed opportunities. But hon. Members must address supplementaries which are relevant. Generally, unless there is a conflict of opinion regarding this matter, that particular provisions offend the Constitution, what is the need to refer?

Therefore, have you referred any other! Why did you arrest X? Because he committed theft. If others have not committed theft, why did you not arrest them, the 360 millions! How does this arise? The hon. Members are all lawyers, but unfortunately they are not applying the test of relevancy here when asking questions.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The relevancy arises in this way . . .

Shri Tangamani: It is perfectly relevant. During 1957, a Bill which was passed by one State Legislature has now been referred to the Supreme Court. I want to know for the sake of information whether any such Bill from any other State has similarly been referred to the Supreme Court during this period.

Mr. Speaker: It is clear that no such Bill has been referred.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How is it clear?

Mr. Speaker: Because he did not answer that question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Now it is clear.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: As far as we know, this is the first instance of the reference to the Supreme Court prior to the giving of assent by the President to a particular legislation, because it happens to be controversial, because it is likely to cause litigation in future. If that be so, we want to know if it is Government's intention generally in regard to controversial legislation—at least in the opinion of Government—to do this kind of thing. Otherwise, this seems rather discriminatory.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Mukerjee forgets that if the hon. Minister had given the least hint or created a suspicion that because it is of a controversial nature and because it comes from a Communist Government, he is trying to make a discrimination, I would have allowed the hon. Member to pursue this matter. But he definitely said that some provisions of the Bill offended some provisions of the Constitution, and it was on that and that ground alone that the reference was made How does the other matter—are you opposed to progressive legislation at all?—arise?

Some Hon. Members *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed sufficient supplementaries. Next question.

Photographs for Voters

*1001. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration regarding insertion of photographs in the voters' list; and

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) No proposal for the insertion of photographs in the voters' list is under consideration. A suggestion has, however, been made that if identity cards with photographs are given to voters at the time of registration and required to be produced by them at the time of voting, it would effectively avoid all possibility of impersonation. This suggestion is being considered in consultation with the Election Commission.

(b) Not yet.

Some Hon. Members: We could not hear.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister must read more slowly and clearly. The House has not yet subsided after the general upheaval caused by the previous question.

The hon. Minister may read the answer again.

Shri Hajarnavis: (a) No proposal for the insertion of photographs in the voters' list is under consideration. A suggestion has, however, been made that if identity cards with photographs are given to voters at the time of registration and required to be produced by them at the time of voting, it would effectively avoid all possibility of impersonation. This suggestion is being considered in consultation with the Election Commission.

(b) Not yet.

Shri Ghosal: Is it a fact that in some constituencies of West Bengal the photos of voters were taken in Calcutta?

Shri Hajarnavis: I am not aware that it has been done so far.

Shri Ranga: May I know who made this suggestion and why is it that Government have thought it fit to consider this particular suggestion in view of the obvious difficulties that would have to be met with in regard to finances etc.?

Shri Hajarnavis: All those difficulties which would arise in implementing the suggestion are being examined by the Election Commission.

Shri Ranga: The first part of my question has not been answered, Sir. Who made this suggestion and why is it that Government has given so much importance to it?

Shri Hajarnavis: The suggestion was received from the Government of West Bengal.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know whether the proposal is in regard to election in both rural and urban areas or whether it is in regard to election in urban areas only?

Shri Hajarnavis: The complaints were received from industrial areas and urban areas and fewer complaints from the rural areas.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Have Government devised some method whereby people who are not photogenic would be protected from this photograph business?

Shri Hajarnavis: I have not followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: Some people may be against taking photos.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The hon. Minister said that this would avoid any form of impersonation. I humbly suggest that some people are photogenic, others are not. What about persons who are not photogenic?

Shri Hajarnavis: That part of the question will also be considered.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the West Bengal Government which gave this suggestion has also accepted to share the expenditure; and, if so, what is the proportion?

Shri Hajarnavis: They have expressed their willingness to share part of the expenses.

Shri Tyagi: After the identification cards proposal is accepted, do Government intend to do away with the idea of maintaining a regular list of voters because that becomes unnecessary?

Shri Hajarnavis: As against the name, all the other details and the photograph would be there.

Consolidation of Loans to States

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*1002. {Shri Bimal Ghose:
        Shrimati Renuka Ray:
        Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had intimated to the State Governments their