

Election in Patiala Constituency

*75. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in election to Patiala city constituency in May 1958 polling was postponed suddenly from the 11th to 25th May due to the non-printing of the ballot papers despite earlier announcement that such polling would take place on the 11th May; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into the causes of this postponement resulting in the extreme inconvenience to the candidates and also to the electorate?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hazarnavis): (a) Polling at this bye-election had to be postponed because of unforeseen difficulties in getting the ballot papers printed in time.

(b) No enquiry was necessary as the postponement was due to compelling circumstances which were known to the Election Commission.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether the printers were given any time-limit before which they were to supply the ballot papers?

Shri Hazarnavis: I have no precise information on this point. But, if the hon. Member requires specific dates, he might give me notice.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Is it not a fact that there has been inefficiency or slackness somewhere, for the ballot papers were not printed in time and the election had to be postponed?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): No. The Election Commission is satisfied that there was no laxity. The reasons in short are as follows. These ballot papers had to bear the marks necessary for allowing the new system of voting to be practised in this particular bye-election. They were sent in time to the printers. When they came back with proofs, it was found that there were various

alterations made compared to the original designs prepared by the Punjab Government. So, they were sent back to them, and they came back on the 5th May, whereas polling was fixed on the 11th May. The time was too short. Moreover, out of twelve candidates, in the meantime, all had dropped excepting four. So the ballot papers had to be reprinted with the names of four candidates remaining in the field. The postponement, therefore, was made only from the 11th of May till the 25th of May, a very short postponement; and we are satisfied that it did not inconvenience anyone.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether the time factor was kept in view when the examination of the proofs was going on?

Shri A. K. Sen: It is always kept in view.

Engineering Graduates

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*76. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what consideration and shape has been given to the Prime Minister's suggestion to the National Development Council that Engineering graduates, till they are permanently employed, be taken on rolls and paid Rs. 350/- a month?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): It has been decided to create a pool for temporary placement of highly qualified Indian scientists and technologists returning from abroad. Persons with outstanding academic records and high post-graduate qualifications in science or engineering from Indian universities will also be eligible for the pool.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know the nature of the suggestion made by the Prime Minister in the