

a day. It is much below the rated capacity because the tilting arrangement is showing some defects. It is hoped that it will be rectified.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The piling which was done in Durgapur has been found to be defective. It is not clearly given in the statement. What exactly is the defect? Is it that piling was to be done to a very much greater depth than it has been done or is it only for the steel melting shops or for a much wider area?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The whole matter is being investigated and I cannot really say anything unless the investigation has been done as to what would be the extent of the area affected. But I have been assured that we will not be called upon to incur any additional expenditure and all delay will be avoided. So, I think, on that we should be content.

सेठ अचल सिंह क्या मंत्री महादय यह बतवाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन दो प्लान्ट्स में जो पिल आयरन तैयार किया जा रहा है वह देश में ही खर्च हो रहा है या बाहर भी भेजा जा रहा है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : दारों जगह ।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister stated that it is being investigated. May I know whether it is being investigated by any officer of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., because we were told that some Indian engineer detected the mistake?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The engineers of the steel plant are also being associated with the investigation.

Shri Goray: The hon. Minister stated that the defects are being remedied and there will be no additional expenditure and no delay. I can understand that regarding the expenditure. But, how is it that he is satisfied that there will be no delay?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Because it is expected that they will step it up. In certain parts the superstructure has not yet started and the piles are there

Before the actual superstructure is started further piling can be driven or underpinning can be undertaken. It is a technical matter. They have assured that they will expedite. (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker: The Demands are coming up. As many of the hon. Members as catch my eye will have an opportunity.

Marking System of Voting

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*1544. { Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Goray:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of voting by marked 'ballot paper' was reviewed in November-December, 1958 by the Election Commission in consultation with the four All India Parties;

(b) whether any other matter concerning election procedure etc. was also discussed at that conference; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes, Sir. The marking system of voting was reviewed at a conference of the All-India Political Parties held by the Election Commission on the 28th November, 1958.

(b) The other matters which were discussed at the Conference were —

(i) Employment of minors in election campaigns;

(ii) reduction of election expenses incurred by (1) candidates, and (2) Government; and

(iii) suggestions for securing the accuracy of electoral rolls.

(c) The representatives of the all-India political parties who attended the above conference as well as the Chief Electoral Officers who met in a

conference recently convened by the Chief Election Commissioner are in favour of the adoption of the 'marking system' of voting in the next general elections. The question as to how far this system can be adopted in the third General Elections is being carefully considered by the Election Commission. As regards employment of minors, the conference agreed that it was neither desirable nor practicable to check the evil by legislation and that parties should endeavour to establish a convention about not employing minors, particularly the school students in electioneering activities.

The discussions on the measures to be adopted to check increase in election expenses were inconclusive. The political parties desired to examine the question further. It was decided that they would send their suggestions to the Election Commission in due course.

On the question of securing the accuracy of electoral rolls, various suggestions were considered, but no decision as such was taken.

Pandit D N Tiwary: May I know whether any legislation has been introduced or recommended about the employment of minor children?

Shri Hajarnavis: No, Sir.

Pandit D. N Tiwary: How will the employment of minor children for election purposes be eliminated?

Shri Hajarnavis: The suggestion before the Election Commission is that the parties should adopt a convention by which they will desist from employing minor children.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Election Commission and the parties were apprised of the percentage of wrong marking of ballot papers? What was the percentage of wrong marking under the old method and what was the percentage under the new method? What was the difference in percentage?

Shri Hajarnavis: I cannot give comparisons between the old and new systems. In the new system it has

ranged from 7 per cent in Bhawanipur in West Bengal to 14.8 per cent in Omarkot in Orissa.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know if details of suggestions of different parties had been received about the reduction of election expenses?

Shri Hajarnavis: I should like to have notice of this question.

Shri Goray: The Minister told us that different parties had been approached not to use minors. What is their reaction?

Shri Hajarnavis: The suggestions have not yet come.

सेठ गोबिन्द दास . चूंकि यह देश गरीब है और चुनावों में विधान सभाओं के और पार्लियामेंट के, दोनों में ही बहुत रुपया खर्च होता है तो इसलिये क्या इस बात पर गवर्नमेन्ट कुछ विचार कर रही है कि विधान सभाओं के और पार्लियामेंट के इनडाइरेक्ट चुनाव किये जायें और इस मन्त्र में सविधान में कोई परिवर्तन की जरूरत हो तो क्या वह परिवर्तन किया जायेगा ?

श्री हजारनवीस एसा काई विचार नहीं है ।

Mr Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Raghbir Sahal: May I know if this new system of marking has been tried in rural areas and if so in how many places and with what results?

Shri Hajarnavis: I can give full information if the hon. Member wants. But I may tell him that it was tried in a predominantly Adivasi area—Bhiloda—and it was fairly successful.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: The polling hours had been fixed from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. without any interval and this is causing great inconvenience to the voters living in the rural areas. May

I know whether this aspect has been discussed by the Election Commission?

Shri Hajarnavis: That hardly arises out of this question. But so far the Election Commission have not received any complaint in this behalf.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government of India to change the criteria for recognition of the All India Parties? There are the criteria according to which four parties have been recognised. May I know whether the Government will go according to the strength of the political parties in the country and not only according to the votes polled by them at the time of the General Election?

Shri Hajarnavis: The decision is that of the Election Commission and it would be free to adopt any criteria which it thinks fit.

श्री बाजराजसिंह : क्या यह सच है कि इस बैठक में चुनावों के खर्च को कम करने के लिये यह सुझाव दिया गया था कि चुनाव के दिन पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के साथ साथ प्राइवेट ट्रांसपोर्ट के चलने पर भी रोक लगा दी जाय और यदि हां तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

श्री हजारनवीस : इस बारे में चर्चा चली होगी और शायद यह सोचा भी गया होगा लेकिन अभी तक इस के बारे में कोई बात तय नहीं हुई है ।

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: What is the percentage of reduction in the expenses by the new method as compared to the old method?

Shri Hajarnavis: That has not been worked out.

Reorganisation of Delhi Administration.

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*1545. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether work regarding the reorganisation of Delhi Administration has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the main features of the reorganisation?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) The reorganisation of the secretariat of the Delhi Administration has been completed and brought into effect from December 1, 1958. The extension of the process of reorganisation to the offices of local heads of departments is in progress. The taxation departments, namely, Sales Tax, Excise, Stamps, Registration and Entertainment Tax, have already been integrated and reorganised under the administrative control of one departmental head.

(b) The main features of the reorganised set-up for the Secretariat are:

- (1) Reduction in size, involving 4 posts of officers and 42 ministerial posts;
- (2) Provision, to the extent practicable, for the Heads of Departments to function directly under the Chief Commissioner without the interposition of a Secretary
- (3) Regrouping of branches to ensure better co-ordination and cohesion.

Similar considerations of increasing efficiency and speed, and of economy, are being borne in mind in extending the process of reorganisation to the offices of Heads of Departments.

Shri Tangamani: As a result of the reorganisation of the set-up what is the estimated saving per year?

Shri G. B. Pant: The savings in the Delhi Secretariat will come to about a lakh of rupees per year.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there is a proposal to replace the office of the Chief Commissioner by the office of Chief Administrator with reduced powers?