

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: There are only a few more minutes left. Some hon. Members have requested that Q. No. 1104 may be answered.

Several Hon. Members: Yes, Sir.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Sir, Q. 1104 is a very important question—double member constituencies. It should be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; Shri Amjad Ali.

Double-Member Constituencies

+
*1104. { **Shri Amjad Ali;**
 Shri Kalika Singh;
 Shri Dasaratha Deb;

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances in the double-member constituencies in States and Parliament in which besides the reserved seat the other seat also was won by a member of Scheduled Castes since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1950;

(b) whether the double-member constituencies have led to evil practices of casteism;

(c) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to do away with them;

(d) whether abolition of Double-Member Constituencies Bill is proposed to be introduced shortly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Eighteen.

(b) The Election Commission is not aware of any such evil practice.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The question of abolition of double-member constituencies is still under consideration of Government.

Shri Amjad Ali: In spite of the fact that Government have not been, till now, able to come to a decision, how

could the Paresident be advised by the Ministry to put it in his Presidential Address?

Shri Hajarnavis: The Address of the President merely speaks of the intention of Government to bring this Bill.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Address said that the Bill shall be brought forward in this session—the Budget session.

Shri Hajarnavis: I have got the Address before me. It says:

“My Government intend to introduce a number of legislative proposals both by way of Bills and amendments. Such proposals will include:—”

Therefore, what was given there was a mere intention.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Am I to understand that the President was advised before the Government took a decision on this matter; or there were second thoughts on account of certain difficulties?

Shri Hajarnavis: The matter is being continuously examined. There may be second thoughts; there may be third thoughts.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Before being examined, the President was advised to mention it in the Address.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was the decision taken later on or what?

Shri Hajarnavis: We thought we could introduce the Bill. Then we found that the matter required further consideration which we are now doing.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was it examined after the decision was taken and the President was advised to put it in his Address?

Mr. Speaker: It is not as if there was no decision before the President put it in. But, subsequently, it must have been reviewed. You cannot quarrel with that. (Interruptions). Order, order. One at a time.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस सदन में हमेशा यह बात कही गई है कि डबल मੈम्बर कांस्टिट्यूएन्सीज सिंगल मੈम्बर कांस्टिट्यूएन्सीज होंगी। सरकार के इस कथन के बावजूद क्यों बिल नहीं लाया गया है ?

गृहकार्य मंत्री (श्री गो० ब० पन्त) : बह सही है कि प्रेसीडेंट के यहां एड्रेस देने से पहले यह खयाल था कि इस बिल को यहां पेश जल्दी कर दिया जाए . . .

श्री अमजद अली : डिमिशन नहीं हुआ था ?

تسیشن نہیں ہوا تھا ؟

श्री गो० ब० पन्त : डिमिशन हुआ था एक तरह से कि यह बिल पेश किया जाए और यह बिल बने। उसके बाद यह मालूम हुआ पार्लियामेंट में कि इस मामले में काफी मतभेद है . . .

श्री अमजद अली : कैसे मालूम पड़ गया ?

کیسے معلوم پڑ گیا ؟

श्री गो० ब० पन्त : तो यह समझा गया कि इस बारे में आपस में बात चीत करके फिर बिल लाया जाए। कोई बड़ी भारी उजलत की बात थी नहीं। जनरल ईलेक्शन से पहले यह मामला तय हो जाना चाहिये जिससे कि इसके मुताबिक अमल हो सके। तब भी बिल पास हो जाता तो कोई खास नतीजा उसका नहीं था। अगर इस पर कोई फैसला भी हो तो उसे ऐसे वक्त में हो जाना चाहिये जो कि जनरल एलेक्शन से पहले हो।

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Home Minister says that it transpired from Parliament that it was against introducing this Bill. . . . (Interruptions).

Some Hon. Members: No.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: How can he know that there was some difference of opinion in the Parliament without having brought the matter before Parliament? How can they know there is difference of opinion in Parliament?

Shri G. B. Pant: The hon. questioner, I think, according to the policy of his party wants everything to be done in Hindi and nothing in English. I am sorry he has not followed my very simple language. I did not say that Parliament had taken any decision one way or the other. I said that I learnt from some friends that there were some differences of opinion on the matter and we felt that it would be better to straighten out things before introducing the Bill so that there might not be unnecessary controversy here in the House if that could be avoided. And as I told you, we felt that there was no particular urgency about it and it would get passed in time before the next General Election if the House approves of it. So, even if it is passed a little later, nobody is going to lose anything on that account. I may also say that when the elections were to be held in Kerala, the Communist Party in Kerala was of the view that such a Bill should not be passed before the elections as it would embarrass them and they would not like to have single-member constituencies at least for that bye-election.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether it is a fact that after the President has given indication that there will be a Bill before the Parliament to abolish the double-member constituencies, the Central Government had consulted the State Governments to give their views about the double or single-member constituencies and a majority of the States have already informed the Central Government that they are all inclined towards single-member constituencies.

Shri G. B. Pant: I have informally consulted the Chief Ministers and they seem to be generally in favour of the proposal.

Shri Thimmaiah: In view of the fact that the Scheduled Caste Members, after the abolition of the reservation have to contest single-member constituencies in future, will the Government consider bringing forward this Bill as early as possible even if there

are differences of opinion because the majority of the Scheduled Caste Members as well as a majority of the Members of the other communities are in favour of single-member constituencies?

Shri G. B. Pant: I am glad to know that the Scheduled Caste Members are mostly in favour of the Bill. My information did not exactly tally with what the hon. Member has said. That was one of the reasons why this consideration was postponed.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know whether the Madras Chief Minister was not in favour of separate constituencies for the Scheduled Castes in view of the fact that separate constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Tribes creates a segregating tendency and it is detrimental to the upliftment of the depressed classes?

Shri G. B. Pant: I am not aware of that.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the fact that the situation in Assam is peculiar, I want to know whether the Chief Minister of Assam had recommended single-member constituencies in the light of the discussions they had in their meetings.

Shri G. B. Pant: What the Chief Minister of Assam has exactly said, I do not recollect; nor can I recollect what an individual Chief Minister said. But when I had talks with the Chief Ministers, my general impression was that they were generally in favour of the proposal.

Shri N. C. Laskar: Which are the States which are in favour of continuing the existing system?

Shri G. B. Pant: I do not exactly remember the names of the States which are in favour of the present system continuing. It is a question which does not call for such detailed scrutiny at this stage. It has been put only in a way to suggest that this matter deserves consideration.

Shri Tyagi: I want one clarification on a constitutional matter. Have Government examined the proposal from the point of view of the Constitution whether it will not be *ultra vires* of the Constitution to ban the non-scheduled caste people residing in a constituency to offer themselves as candidates because if the seats are reserved for one particular class, all the rest of the non-scheduled caste people within that constituency are deprived of their privilege to stand for election from their home constituency? Has that point been examined? (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If the House agrees and it is the desire of the Government that there should be only single member constituencies, I do not know whether the Constitution will stand against it; it can be modified. We have been modifying the Constitution. There is no meaning in putting such questions.

Shri G. B. Pant: May I say that it has been examined from that point of view and there would be nothing unconstitutional in such a proposal being given effect to by Parliament. Whether it likes to do it or not is a different thing. In fact, single member constituencies exist even today in tribal areas for tribal people..... (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to allow any more questions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bolani Ores Private Ltd.

*1091. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount which the secretaries and treasurers of the Bolani Ores Private Ltd. have drawn so far by way of their remuneration; and

(b) the total amount of money which has been invested upto date both by the Government and the private partners respectively?