

it is being held up for want of spares from ordnance, they are brought. I have no knowledge about this particular case of a muffler. If you wish me to do so, Mr. Speaker I will look into it. But there is general control by Army Headquarters over local purchases.

An Hon. Member: It is impossible to hear.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The hon. Minister is not audible.

Mr. Speaker: It is a particular case of mufflers. The hon. Member wanted to know why mufflers are purchased at a higher rate.

Shri Ranga: The pity is that we could not follow his answer.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed to the next question. Enough has been said. There is nothing particular in this.

The hon. Minister must speak up a little louder.

Shri Krishna Menon: I am sorry.

Identity Cards for Voters

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 *830. { **Shri Warior:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Abdul Salam:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experience of voting with identity card system in the recent bye-election to Lok Sabha from Calcutta South West Constituency has been assessed by Government; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). As a result of the experience gained in the bye-election from the South-West Calcutta Parliamentary Constituency, the Election

Commission is considering whether it would be worthwhile and administratively feasible to adopt the system of photographed identity cards and Government is awaiting the views of the Election Commission in the matter.

Shri Warior: May I know the total number of persons who could not vote in the bye-election?

Shri A. K. Sen: One of the main means of finding out the actual number of voters in a particular area is through identity cards. One of the reasons which prompted the Election Commission to suggest this measure was that there were many persons on the voters' list who possibly did not exist, or at least did not exist there in that constituency. What can be said is that out of 3,42,000 electors on the rolls, 2,13,638 were photographed. Out of these photographed persons, 65 per cent turned up to vote, which was a very high percentage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether in view of the bitter experience in this particular bye-election for the ruling party, they will discuss the system with all the political parties before implementing it in the elections of 1962?

Shri A. K. Sen: The hon. Member has started with certain inferences which are very controversial. He says that the ruling party has suffered a bitter experience. If every defeat is a bitter experience, then it is so. But I do not suppose that in a parliamentary democracy, defeats really mean any disgrace for any party.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know what is the economy effected in time and money by this process?

Shri A. K. Sen: There is more cost. No photographing can economise the cost. It adds to the cost.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what is the total expenditure which was incurred for photographing?

Shri A. K. Sen: For the entire elections?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In this particular constituency.

Shri A. K. Sen: We have not got separate figures for photographing. We have got photographs including identity cards. They cost Rs. 2,61,217.

Mr. Speaker: It comes to one rupee per head.

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes.

Shri Tyagi: Are all these identity cards duly numbered? If so, are the numbers on the cards identical to the numbers on the electoral rolls?

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes, they bear numbers. Whether the numbers bear the same numerals as those on the electoral roll, I do not know. But the electoral number was certainly mentioned in the identity card.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. Minister to arrange for a demonstration of it here in the Central Hall?

Shri A. K. Sen: If that is the desire, I should do so.

Mr. Speaker: I am only interested in avoiding these questions relating to details.

Shri A. K. Sen: There is hardly any demonstration except to show the actual identity cards.

Mr. Speaker: If that is brought here that can be seen.

Shri A. K. Sen: Photography is not anything peculiar for these persons; it is the same process for all.

Bhilai Steel Works

*331. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry was recently conducted against four officers of Bhilai Steel Works for alleged corruption;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the inquiry; and

(c) the designation of the officers who conducted the inquiry?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) It is not clear to which inquiry the Hon'ble Member is referring to. No departmental or magisterial inquiry is pending against any officer of Bhilai Steel works at the moment. Investigations against some officers of the Bhilai steel works are, however, proceeding.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: A committee was appointed with Shri R. L. Mehta and Shri Raghupati to enquire into the staff matters of the Bhilai Steel Project. Is it a fact that this committee submitted a critical report against the working of the Bhilai Steel plant staff matters? If so, what happened to this report?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is not correct that any committee consisting of the two officers was appointed to look into what the hon. Member describes as staff matters. It is a fact that these two officers, one representing the State Government and the other representing the Central Government went to Bhilai to make an assessment of the post-strike situation that arose some months ago; and they submitted a report which was of a general nature. It will be wrong to say that there was any severe criticism of the working of the steel plant.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know how many complaints of corruption against the gazetted officers of the Bhilai Steel Project have been received by Government and how many of them have been enquired into and what has become of the enquiry?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not remember having received any complaint against those whom the hon. Member describes as gazetted officers. I have already said that the SPE are investigating two or three matters. The information is like this. There is an investigation with regard to some emergent purchases from Bombay in the year 1957-58. There is one other matter relating to the supply of defective chuglam wood to the steel