

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : ऐसी आठ दर-स्वास्तें आई थीं और सभी मंजूर कर ली गई थीं। उन में से सब चालू नहीं हुईं। जैसा मैं ने पहले कहा सिर्फ दो जगह ऐसी भट्टियां चालू हुईं, एक उड़ीसा में और एक मद्रास स्टेट में। मेरा ख्याल है कि ग्वालियर में भी एक छोटे स्केल पर चालू हुई है। इस के अलावा मैंने कहा कि चान्दा में एक और के लिए इजाजत दी गई है। और भी जिस स्टेट से दरस्वास्तें आयेगी, अगर वे ठीक होंगी तो उन पर भी गौर किया जायगा।

Mr. Speaker: It has been brought to my notice that an honorary Doctorate has been conferred upon our hon. friend, Seth Govind Das. Therefore since day before yesterday I have been calling him as Dr. Govind Das.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From which University?

Mr. Speaker: From the Jabalpur University. It is rather difficult to get honours from one's own place!... Next question. Mr. Sharma.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Why not you give a ruling that everybody will be called Shri So-and So? You gave a ruling last time that everybody would be called by the word Shri and not Dr.

Mr. Speaker: I will again call him Mr. Sharma. Or, is he also a Dr.?

An Hon. Member: No, he is a professor.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Professor Sharma then.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When I first came I used to be called Professor D. C. Sharma. Then you said that everybody would be called Shri So-and-so. Now are you going to change that practice?

Mr. Speaker: All right, if hon. Members are particular about their titles.

Reduction in Election Expenses

{ Shri D. C. Sharma:
*412. { Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 226 on the 8th August, 1960 and state:

(a) the progress made in consideration of the suggestions made by the political parties in India for the reduction of election expenses by the Election Commission; and

(b) what decision has been taken in this regard?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). The various suggestions made by the political parties for the reduction of election expenses have been carefully considered by the Election Commission and the Commission is of the view that the practical suggestions for reducing election expenses are few and their adoption is not likely to produce any appreciable effect. The Commission agrees with the suggestion that the holding of large public meetings with loud speakers is an expensive item and is of the view that restricting the number of such meetings that any candidate or party may hold should be feasible. The Government is now considering how best to give effect to this suggestion.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When this question was put last time, it was said that the views of certain political parties had not been received. May I know if all the political parties have expressed their views and if so, if there is any agreement on some of the points about these views?

Shri A. K. Sen: There is hardly any agreement excepting possibly with regard to the holding of very expensive meetings and so on. Each party had given certain suggestions. But, most of them are so difficult to

implement in practice that the Election Commission found it absolutely impossible to give effect to them. The only possible suggestion which the Election Commission thinks it may implement is this question of restricting the number of expensive public meetings held for each election. They are exploring the possibilities of implementing it.

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि चुनाव क्षेत्रों में कोई कोई जम्मीदवार इतना खर्च करते हैं जिस का ठिकाना नहीं है। कहीं कहीं तो १००, १०० और २००, २०० जीप चलाते हैं और चुनाव बड़ा मुश्किल हो जाता है, जैसाकि मीरवा में हुआ था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मीदवार जो इतना बड़ा खर्च कर खर्च करते हैं, लेकिन दिखलाते कम हैं, उस को कम करने के लिये सरकार कोई बात सोच रही है।

Shri A. K. Sen: What the hon. Member says has been the complaint on behalf of many persons. Using hundreds of jeeps is punishable, as the hon. Member knows under the Representation of the People Act. If notwithstanding that it is employed and it is not brought to book, the hon. Member knows the difficulty himself of implementing any restriction.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has just now stated that the Commission is considering a proposal to restrict the number of meetings. I wonder if the hon. Minister would be able to take non-officials into confidence....

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes.

Shri Tyagi: Because, my fears are that the most popular party would suffer in that case. Because, the most popular meetings are of the party which is most popular in the country.

Shri A. K. Sen: I have personally that in mind. Naturally people know that the great leaders of this country go about during election time and address the biggest meetings. I have that very much in mind. This consideration must be borne in mind, namely, that the parties which could secure the largest meetings may not suffer unnecessarily. Therefore, it is necessary that all sides of public opinion should be associated before coming to any final decision.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that the Law Minister may advise the Election Commissioner to meet the hon. Members or leaders of various groups or at any rate their spokesmen in the Central Hall—I will allow that—and have a discussion.

Shri A. K. Sen: Certainly. I think they have had a discussion.

Mr. Speaker: With regard to this?

Shri A. K. Sen: In this matter of election expenses. If he has not done it, I shall certainly communicate the views of this House that they should be associated.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may make all the suggestions when there is a meeting. Even I would advise hon. Members to make in advance the suggestions in this regard to the hon. Minister. If it is possible, a small memo on the lines on which the hon. Minister and the Election are thinking may be circulated to hon. Members. They will come prepared to discuss that matter. If after all this there is still difference of opinion, I will allow a discussion in this House regarding this matter. Nothing more. Next question.

Some Hon. Members: Four Hours should be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow four hours.