

Mr. Speaker: I will call question No. 1820.

**Arrangements for General Elections—
1962**

***1820. Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision not to mention the name of the party to which any candidate might belong in the ballot paper to be used in the next general elections to the Legislatures has been taken by the Election Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India or the various political parties were consulted in this regard; and

(c) what was the reaction of the Government or of the political parties in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has taken a decision that the party affiliations of the contesting candidates will not be shown on the ballot paper.

(b) The representatives of the various political groups in the Lok Sabha were consulted by the Election Commission.

(c) A suggestion that the names of parties, recognised or otherwise, be printed on the ballot paper below the names of candidates was made by some spokesmen. An alternative suggestion was also made by some other spokesmen that, if it is not possible to indicate the party affiliations of the candidates of the unrecognised parties also on the ballot paper, the party affiliations should not be shown at all even in the case of candidates sponsored by the recognised parties.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What were the points that led them to this decision?

Shri Hajarnavis: Obviously, to treat all the Parties alike.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I want to know whether the views of the Government were taken by the Election Commission? That has not been answered.

Shri Hajarnavis: The Government did not come in. The Election Commission consults the various parties and these Parties were there—Congress Party, the PSP, the Communist Party, the United Progressive Party, the Socialist Party, the Republican Party, the Ganatantra Parishad, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Swatantra Party.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What was the consensus of opinion among the political parties that were invited in this regard?

Shri Hajarnavis: As I said, some representatives were of the opinion that the names of all the parties were to be printed but certain others felt that it should not be indicated at all.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I wanted to know the consensus of opinion. He had been saying something else. How many were for this suggestion and how many were against it?

Mr. Speaker: Are the names of parties printed in the ballot paper? I do not know if it is so in the South India: I have not seen it being printed.

An Hon. Member: It was so in the bye-elections held.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the names of parties are printed in the ballot paper. Are they printed?

12 hrs.

Shri Ranga: This time, when a conference of the leaders of the parties was called by the Election Commission, we got the impression that the Election Commission was impressed with the suggestion made that the names of the parties should be indicated under the names of the candidates concerned, where the parties are recognised for the pur-

poses of symbols and so on. Now, I would like to know what the decision of the Election Commission is and what the Government wants to do in this matter.

Shri Hajarnavis: The Government have no suggestion to make to the Election Commission, but the various parties made suggestions to the Election Commission and the minutes recorded by the Election Commission would indicate the following:

"A suggestion that the names of the parties recognised or otherwise be printed on the ballot paper below the names of the candidate found almost unanimous support. So far, the practice is to give the names of the recognised parties only and show the candidates of other parties as Independents. An alternative suggestion was also made by the spokesmen of the parties that, if it is not possible to show party affiliations of the candidates of unrecognised parties also on the ballot paper, party affiliations should not be shown at all even in the case of candidates sponsored by the recognised parties. The Election Commission has since taken a decision that the party affiliations of the contesting candidates will not be shown on the ballot paper even where they belong to recognised parties."

Shri Ranga: So, may we take it that the names of the parties, whether they are recognised or not, will not be indicated below the names of the candidates? Is that the decision?

Mr. Speaker: They will be shown as Independents. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Ranga: Does that not, in fact, further create a disability in the case of those parties which are not recognised, because the parties which are recognised were already given a symbol? There is no need for their party names to be indicated. The difficulty arises only in the case of those parties which are not recognised at all. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. All these suggestions could be made to the Election Commission.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I request you to allow Question No. 1822 to be answered? I mentioned it even half an hour ago. It is a very important question. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I created an exception only in favour of one question. I am not going to allow all questions to be brought up. I thought that in the order of preference Question No. 1820 should be called. Of course, I got notice that Question No. 1822 may be answered. But I cannot give preference to it over Question No. 1820. Only one question can be called in a day giving it preference over other questions.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Question No. 1822 is a very important one. I made a special request that it may be answered. It concerns the defence of our country.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I also gave notice of my desire, in respect of that question, half an hour before.

Mr. Speaker: There is a definite rule. I give exception in the case of any particular question which is very important, and with the consent of the House practically, I would allow one question to be taken up in this way. I am not going to allow all questions which are in the Order Paper to be treated in this way, and create exceptions in favour of a number of questions! One question was allowed to-day, which was earlier in point of time and in number. The hon. Member must rest satisfied with the written answer that is available to him re: No. 1822.

Shri Raghunath Singh: That is not enough.

Mr. Speaker: That is all that he can get. Nothing more.