

best efforts, some people, unfortunately, are attacked. I am not going to allow this kind of argument on this case. There may be hundreds of telegrams. The facts are clear. All arrangements possible for the Government have been made, but in spite of it, on account of the seriousness of the situation there, some sporadic cases occur. That is all. We have elicited sufficient information.

Bifurcation of Two-Member Parliamentary Constituency of Azamgarh, U.P.

S.N.Q. 6. Shri Braj Raj Singh: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while bifurcating the double-member parliamentary constituency of Azamgarh in U.P. the area which comprised more population of Scheduled Castes were termed as "general" and the one which consisted of relatively less population of Scheduled Castes termed as "reserved"; and

(b) whether objections to this were submitted by the parties and if so, whether a final decision has been taken and what is the decision?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). It is a fact that in the proposals as published by the Election Commission in the first instance, there was an inadvertent mistake in computing the percentage of the scheduled castes population of the two halves. This mistake was subsequently discovered and rectified at the public sitting held by the Election Commission.

The Azamgarh parliamentary constituency will have the general seat and the Lalganj parliamentary constituency will have the reserved seat.

Shri B. C. Kamble: May I know whether any objections had been raised in the process of bifurcation of the constituencies, and particularly the nature of those objections?

Shri A. K. Sen: In this particular constituency?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes, it was as a result of objections being heard that the original proposal which was made in the first instance was revised.

Reduction in number of Reserved Seats of State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha

S.N.Q. 7. Shri B. C. Kamble: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representation has been made to Government to take steps to reduce the number of reserved seats of State Assemblies and of the Lok Sabha in proportion to the decrease in the population of Scheduled Castes as a result of conversion of Scheduled Castes to Buddhism since 1956 mainly from the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) the action, if any, taken by Government on the same together with reasons therefor?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) and (b). In May last, the hon. Member sent to the Election Commission a copy of the representation made by him to the Prime Minister, asking for a reduction in the number of Scheduled Caste seats, particularly for the State of Maharashtra. The question of reducing the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in any State can only arise if the population figures as ascertained by the decennial census of 1961 so require as contemplated by article 332(3) of the Constitution.

Shri B. C. Kamble: Provisional figures have been published in relation to the census undertaken in other States. Similarly, may I know why the provisional figures of Buddhist converts are not published, and in that proportion the number of seats reduced?

Shri A. K. Sen: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: The question is why a separate list of persons converted has not been produced.

Shri B. C. Kamble: Provisional figures are published with regard to the last census.

Mr. Speaker: Of Scheduled Castes?

Shri B. C. Kamble: Not with regard to the Scheduled Castes, but the general population. I ask why, in the same fashion, the provisional figures with regard to the population of Buddhist have not been published, and accordingly steps taken to reduce the number of reserved seats in proportion to the population.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it. It is not possible for the hon. Law Minister or the Government now to reduce the seats which have been conferred upon this community under the Constitution. The hon. Member is a lawyer himself.

Vote recording method in ensuing general elections

S.N.Q. 8, Shri B. C. Kamble: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outline of the schedule, system and the method of recording votes proposed to be adopted the last General Elections; and

(b) whether any departure has been proposed in respect of these matters as compared with the programme for the last General Elections; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such departures proposed?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) to (c). The 'broad outline of the schedule' is not understood. But if it refers to the programme for the ensuing General Elections, the Election Commission has, after taking into consideration all the circumstances, decided that the last week of February, 1962 would be the most convenient period for the purpose, except in the snow-bound areas in

Himachal Pradesh and Kulu sub-division, where polling is likely to take place some time in April, 1962. The actual dates for the polling in the respective areas will be finally settled later. During the last general elections, polling in the snow-bound constituencies had to be postponed to June and July, 1957.

The Election Commission proposes to adopt the "marking system" of voting in most areas during the next general elections, as against the "ballot system" which was adopted at the time of last elections. The marking system of voting has many advantages over the ballot system, as explained on many occasions in this House.

Shri B. C. Kamble: May I know whether there would be separate arrangements for parliamentary candidates and assembly candidates, or there would be joint arrangement for the two?

Shri A. K. Sen: This is a detail which should have been really given notice of. It is actually the mechanics of the polling, not the general schedule or anything like that.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether any decision has been taken with respect to the voting in respect of the parliamentary and assembly candidates? Will the voter be asked to put the two ballots in the same box, or will there be separate boxes and he will be asked to put them separately?

Shri A. K. Sen: I have read in the papers that after the representatives of the different parties had met the Chief Election Commissioner some time back, a tentative proposal was made that both the ballot papers might be handed over by the returning officer at the same time, and that some parties, notably the PSP, the CPI and also the Congress, I understand, had more or less not objected to that tentative proposal. I have personally my own misgivings about the matter, and I have already sent a communication to the Chief Election Commissioner for the purpose of discussing this matter, but I do not think