

been tabled, there have been two writs taken in two cases. One of them was dismissed and the other is still pending.

**Shri Punnoose:** Arising out of answer to part (b) of the question, may I know how many have resigned due to other appointments outside India and how many have resigned without showing reason?

**Shri Biswas:** The best I can do is to give him the names of persons who have resigned.

**Mr. Speaker:** That will not satisfy him, I think; he wants to know specifically how many of them have resigned because of appointments outside India.

**Shri Biswas:** I find the name of the hon. **Shri Sri Prakasa** and **Lieut.-General Himmatsinhji**. I do not know about others—whether they resigned because they got some appointments elsewhere.

**Shri Punnoose:** There is a particular objective in my question. That is, Members of Parliament, elected by the people resign because they have got some State duty outside India....

**Mr. Speaker:** He need not argue.

#### ELECTION PETITIONS

\*610. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of election petitions filed up-to-date;

(b) the number of election petitions still pending decision; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, in the disposal of these petitions?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):**

(a) 367 } upto 29th November 1953.  
(b) 50. }

(c) In several of these cases the delay is due to the parties obtaining

stay orders from the High Court concerned or the Supreme Court, and in others, it is due to the large number of witnesses to be examined by the Tribunal and the complicated nature of the issues involved.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know when these pending petitions are likely to be decided?

**Shri Biswas:** That is more than I can say—that is in the hands of the Tribunal.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know the State-wise break-up of the number still pending?

**Shri Biswas:** I have got a long statement, showing the position State-wise. If desired, I will lay a copy on the Table any day I may be permitted to do so.

**Shri U. C. Patnaik:** May I know why there is great delay in the publication of decisions of Tribunals, thus enabling persons to continue as Ministers for several weeks in spite of the findings of grave corruption?

**Shri Biswas:** I do not think that there has been any great delay in any case. For instance, only day before a complaint was made to me about some election which was set aside by the Orissa Tribunal. I made enquiries and found that the report covering eighty pages of foolscap received here was sent to the press the following day by the Election Commission's Office and probably it would be published in the course of two or three days. That is how these things are done and I do not think—unless any specific case is brought to my notice—that there is any unusual delay in the matter of publication of the decisions.

**Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** Is it a fact that the returning officer in Kurnool constituency has forged a document to help a candidate?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. That does not arise.