

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The General Insurance Corporation (GIC) have informed that presently no such proposal is under their consideration.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

#### Insurance Cover to Construction Workers

4425. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether insurance cover has been extended to the construction workers of Railways in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the States that have implemented the scheme so far; and

(c) the number of workers likely to be covered under this scheme Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Speedy Trials

4426. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newitem captioned "S.C. ruling to help speedy trial" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated August 5, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the State Governments to implement the said ruling for speedy disposal of pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Article 141 of the Constitution of India provides that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India.

#### Amendment in R.P. Act, 1950

4427. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Representation of the Peoples Act, 1950 in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(b) if so, the details of action/decision taken/proposed to be taken in this regard, in view of impending elections in J&K and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Important recommendations of Dinesh Goswami Committee which, by and large, have already been implemented are given in the *Statement* attached. At present, there is no proposal to further amend the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1950 before elections in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in the light of the recommendations made by the Goswami Committee.

#### STATEMENT

*Important recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee already implemented by the Government*

1. Constitution of the Election Commission into a three member body.
2. The tenure of CEC and other Election Commissioners made six years or sixty-five years of age, whichever is earlier.
3. Issuance of photo identity cards to voters.
4. Use of Electronic Voting Machines in elections.
5. Enhancement of punishment for breach of official duty in connection with preparation of electoral rolls, etc.
5. Disqualification of a person held guilty under sections 2 and 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
7. Statutory backing to observers appointed by Election Commission of India and empowering them to direct Returning Officer, pending decision of the Election Commission, to stop counting or declaration of the result in case large scale booth capturing has taken place.
8. Increase in security deposit and laying down the requirement of ten proposers in case of an independent candidates.
9. Restriction on a candidate from contesting in more than two constituencies of the same class.
10. Arrangement of names of candidates of recognised political parties above the names of independent candidates on the ballot paper.

11. Non-countermanding of election in case of death of an independent candidate.
12. Amplification of the provision relating to prohibition on public meetings so as to prohibit other forms of electioneering as well during 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of the poll.
13. Enhancement of punishment for disturbance at public meetings and making the offence cognizable.
14. Enhancement of punishment for the offence of hiring or procuring of any vehicle, etc., for free conveyance of any elector to or from any polling station.
15. Prohibition on going armed to or near a polling station on the day of poll by making it an electoral offence.
16. Amplification of the scope of the provision which makes the removal of ballot paper from polling station an offence.
17. Amplification of the offence of booth capturing as also punishment thereof and making the offence cognizable.
18. (i) Grant of paid holiday to employees of any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment on poll day.  
(ii) Ban on sale/distribution of liquor etc. for 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of the poll.
19. Holding of bye-elections within a period of six months

#### **Cotton Production**

4428. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for contradictory assessments of production and consumption of cotton by various Government agencies such as office of Textiles Commissioner, Textile Ministry and Cotton Advisory Board for the current year; and

(b) the likely impact of such wide variation in estimates on cotton trade and the cotton-growers.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India as well as the office of the Textile Commissioner follow the estimates of cotton production as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Precaution to Avoid Accidents**

4429. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to avoid accidents in coal mines of Bihar and other States due to inundation before the monsoon;

(b) whether any notices have been served to individual coal mines of CIL/IISCO/ISCO for violation of inundation safety rules; and

(c) if so, the names of those mines and action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The precautionary measures against possibility of inundation of mines are laid down in the statutes and guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Mines Safety from time to time. Individual mine managers have been directed to comply with the statutory requirements and guidelines and to strictly ensure that no mine is worked with any violations thereof.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply in (b).

#### **Shifting of Industrial Units**

4430. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have shifted the location of some Central Public Sector Industrial Units from Delhi to neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the original location of such Industrial Units and the States to which these units have been shifted; and

(c) the number and details of such units shifted to each State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c). As per available information, four Public Sector Undertakings have shifted their offices from Delhi as a part of the measures for decongesting the capital. A statement showing the names of these PSUs and the places to which they are shifted is enclosed.

#### **STATEMENT**

*PSUs who have shifted their offices out of Delhi*

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Place to which shifted
1.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited.	Noida (U.P.)
2.	Paradeep Phosphates Limited.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)