

fiscal discipline, check on expansion of money supply, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities and a strict action against hoarders and profiteers. These measures are expected to have desirable effects on prices.

[Translation] 61—64 Election

Recommendation regarding electoral reforms

20. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of recommendations made by the Election Commission in regard to electoral reforms;
- (b) whether the Government propose to implement these recommendations; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINI-STER OF STATE IN THE MINI-STRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAN-GARAJAN KUMARAMANGAL-AM): (a) to (c) A statement listing out the measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past and the reforms which have already been implement-ed by the Government is given below.

The Government is committed to electoral reforms. However, in view of certain incidents in the last general elections, a greater indepth study is required and, therefore, no time-frame can be given as at present.

STATEMENT

The measures suggested by the Election Commission for electoral reforms in the past are listed in Annexure-I. It is not possible at this stage to work out exact expenditure

involved in implementing these mea-sures. The proposals from Election Commission have been received from time to time. Major proposals were received from the Commission in the years 1977, 1982 and 1990.

The reforms listed in Annexure-II have already been implemented. The other major reforms suggested by the Election Commission and other bodies were considered by the Com-mittee on Electoral Reforms consti-tuted on the 1st February, 1990, and based on the accepted recommenda-tions of the Committee, four Bills mentioned below, were introduced in Parliament in May, 1990, by the previous Government:—

1. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990.
2. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990.
3. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990.
4. The Chief Election Commis-sioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1991, which has since become an Act. (Act No. 11 of 1991).

ANNEXURE I

Main recommendations made by the Election Commission on Electoral Reforms

1. Introduction of Multi-purpose photo-identity cards to voters.
2. Amendment in the ceiling on election expenses.
3. Delimitation of constituencies and rotation of reserved seats.
4. Introduction of electronic vot-ing machines.
5. Elimination of non-serious candidates.
6. Speedy disposal of Election Petition.
7. State funding of elections.

8. Registration of political parties and compulsory audit.
9. Reduction of voting age.
10. Ban on candidates contesting from more than two constituencies.
11. Disqualification of persons with criminal records.
12. Prevention of disturbances at election meetings.
13. Prevention of fraudulent filing of nomination papers.
14. Measures to control the offence of booth capturing.
15. Countermanding of elections not to be resorted to on the death of an independent candidate.
16. The expenditure incurred by a political party to be included in computing the election expenses.
17. Separate electoral machinery under the control of Election Commission.
18. Statutory backing for observers of the Election Commission.
19. Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers etc. to be on deputation to Election Commission.
3. Disqualification section made more stiff by including offences under various laws.
4. Definition of political parties and provisions for their registration.
5. Provisions for use of electronic voting machines at elections.
6. Booth capturing made an offence with provision for countermanding of election.
7. Enhancement of punishment for causing disturbances at election meetings.
8. Number of proposers increased for election to Rajya Sabha and legislative councils.

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Pay Scales of Regional Rural Bank Employees

21. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accepted the recommendations of Hyderabad Tribunal Award for bringing the pay scales of the employees of Regional Rural Banks at par with those in other nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, since when the enhanced scales of pay have been given to the employees of Regional Rural Banks as per the recommendations of the said Award?

ANNEXURE II

Main changes made in the Election Laws

1. Reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers and other Election Staff to be deemed to be on deputation to Election Commission for the period of election and to be subject to the control, superintendence and discipline of the Commission.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Industrial Tribunal for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) set up at Hyderabad, *inter-alia*, recommended the grant of pay scales to the employees of RRBs at par with those applicable to the employees of sponsor banks with effect from 1-9-1987. Government have accepted the recommendations of the Tribunal, and has asked National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the same.