

Panel to Study Poll Reforms

264. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision to appoint a panel to study the poll reforms;

(b) if so, the main points to be examined by the panel;

(c) whether all the points raised by the Opposition members and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan before 1977 election will be taken into consideration; and

(d) the time by which the final report will be submitted by the panel to Government?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) There is no proposal to appoint a panel to study poll reforms.

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

Company Donations to Political Parties

265. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to various newspaper reports about large amounts of funds given by public limited companies for issue of advertisements in souvenirs published by a particular political party;

(b) whether the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs wrote a letter on 8th March, 1977 to the Federation of Indian Chamber of

Commerce and Industry stating that payments for such advertisements were not donations and would not attract any penal provisions under Section 293-A of the Companies Act; and

(c) whether on a writ filed by four limited companies, the Bombay High Court has not agreed with aforesaid interpretation given by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the letter dated 8th March, 1977 it was clarified to FICCI that expenditure incurred by companies on advertisements in souvenirs, bulletins, magazines etc. were not donations/contributions to political parties so as to attract section 293A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) No notice of any writ petition and/or suit has been served on the Government in any legal proceedings.

Transfer orders about Judges challenged in Supreme Court

266. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:
SHRI BASHIR AHMED:
SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Court judges who were transferred during the 19-month of "Internal Emergency" had filed petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the transfer orders;

(b) if so, the names of such judges and the outcome of their petitions;

(c) whether Government have decided to revert the transferred High Court judges to their original places and benches; and