

be allotted as its exclusive symbol for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

3 It would be evident from the above that it is not correct to say that any letter/file had been removed from the office of the Election Commission of India New Delhi, implying that something had been done unauthorisedly or in an irregular manner

Arrangements for Elections to State Assemblies

2043 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether this time the Election Commission had made better and tighter arrangements for elections to State Assemblies

(b) in what way they were better and tighter than the last Lok Sabha elections, and

(c) whether any arrangements were made to save the people from the heat?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANU BHUSHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The better and tighter arrangements were in the sphere of maintenance of law and order with a view to effectively preventing the commission of electoral offences and ensuring smooth poll. The State Governments concerned made adequate security arrangements for the safe conduct of poll where elections to Legislative Assemblies were held. The effectiveness of the arrangements can be seen from the fact that there were 75 cases of repoll/adjourned poll at the Lok Sabha elections held in March, 1977 whereas the number of such cases during the assembly elections was only 9

(c) Sheds wherever possible, were provided in front of the polling stations so that the voters may stand in queue

in these facilities for drinking water were also made to the extent possible

Off-Shore Exploration Programme by O. I. L. in Mahanadi Delta

2044 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have given clearance to the joint sector Oil India Limited to start off-shore exploration in the Mahanadi Delta in July,

(b) whether Government have dropped the idea of take over of the foreign equity in the Oil India Limited,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Oil India Limited has worked out a Rs 15 crore off-shore exploration programme for the Mahanadi area, and

(e) if so, the main features of the proposed programme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The negotiations are in progress

(d) and (e) The scheme for offshore exploration of Mahanadi area is under preparation by Oil India Ltd

Collision between Trivandrum Mail and Steam Engines at Tiruvalem

2045. SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether two persons were killed and six injured when the Madras-bound Trivandrum Mail Collided with coupled steam engines while it was passing Tiruvalem station 118 K.M from Madras.

(b) if so, the details of the accident;