

**Ban on Independent Candidates
Contesting Elections**

536. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring forward a legislation in Parliament to put a ban on the independent candidates to contest Lok Sabha and Legislature Assemblies elections ;

(b) whether Election Commission have recommended any such proposal to Government in this regard and ;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) : No proposal to impose a ban on independent candidates to contest elections is under consideration of the Government.

It may, however be mentioned that in the context of some occurrences in relation to certain constituencies involving a large number of frivolous or non-serious candidates seeking election and the consequent administrative and other difficulties, the Election Commission has informed that it is examining the steps to be taken to discourage such non-serious candidates from standing for elections.

**Alternative Route to Shillong City
from Khasi Village of Mawshubuit**

537. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the happy Valley cantonment, particularly the newly constructed Gorkha Training Centre in Shillong, has blocked off

the traditional route of the Khasi village of Mawshubuit with Shillong city compelling villagers to find their way through the cantonment resulting in occasional friction between the villagers and the army men ;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into this ; and

(c) whether his Ministry propose to provide alternative route to Shillong city for the villagers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) : The road connecting Khasi village of Shillong city which passes through the Gorkha Training Centre was closed for a few days in 1980 during Assam agitation. The road was reopened shortly thereafter following a meeting between the State Government and the local military authorities, and remains open to civilian vehicular traffic and population of the area. Apart from an isolated incident which was duly enquired into, no complaints of occasional friction between villagers and the Army personnel have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of Shillong Cantonment

538. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shillong Cantonment built by the British decades ago now finds itself occupying large tracts within Shillong city itself and impinging on a heavy concourse of people such as Shillong's biggest bazaar, the Iow Dub Bazar ;

(b) whether the Meghalaya State authorities as well as the public have represented to him many times to shift the cantonment away from the city ; and

(c) whether Government propose to discuss the matter with the Meghalaya Government ?