

(ii) Meghalaya Preventive Detention Ordinance 1979 was promulgated on the 26th December, 1979 to enable adequate preventive action being taken.

(iii) Patrolling has been intensified in vulnerable and sensitive areas.

(iv) To deal with intimidation by landlords, offences under section 506 of IPC have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

(v) Appeal has been made to political parties and local press to help promote atmosphere of peace and harmony.

(vi) Efforts are being made to enable the evacuees to return to their original homes.

The Centre has been in constant touch with the State Government impressing upon them the urgent need to restore peace and normalcy. Assistance of the Armed Forces was made available to the State Government to deal with the situation. Additional units of armed Police had also been placed at the disposal of the State Government to maintain control over the situation.

Complaints re. Prevention of Harijans from Voting

91. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been recorded particularly in U.P., against the prevention of Harijans from going to the Polling booths during the Mid-term Parliamentary elections;

(b) whether impersonation was resorted to in casting the votes of these Harijans; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to inquire into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a)

The Election Commission received nine complaints regarding violence and repression against Harijans and other weaker sections of voters in U.P. during the General Elections to the seventh Lok Sabha.

(b) Some cases of impersonation came to notice but it is not known whether the impersonators were casting the votes in place of Harijans, as the caste of the voters is not mentioned in the voters' list.

(c) The Election Commission ordered fresh poll in twelve polling stations in U.P. on the basis of reports from the returning officers regarding irregularities and suspicion of intimidation of voters from weaker sections.

The matters regarding prevention of Harijans from exercising their votes and impersonation can be agitated in an election petition.

Objections to Building of Residential Premises in Chheda Nagar, Bombay

92. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Salt Commissioner, Ministry of Industry has raised objections to building of residential premises in Chheda Nagar, Bombay North-East;

(b) if so, the basis for these objections; and

(c) what is the general policy guideline for the utilisation of land under the Salt Commissioner for building purposes in the Bombay area?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Salt Commissioner has objected to the construction of residential buildings on lands which were leased out for manufacture of Salt.