

(b) if so, whether such arbitrators would be appointed from a panel of reputed lawyers of Supreme Court and High Courts.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disposal of Election Petitions

2256. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that it takes a long time for disposal of an election petition; and

(b) whether his Ministry propose to evolve necessary procedure for the disposal of every election within 90 days at the trial court *i.e.* High Court and within 30 days at the appeal court *i.e.* Supreme Court to ensure speedy justice to electorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to sub-section (6) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, trial of an election petition shall, so far as is practicable consistent with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day until its conclusion, unless the High Court finds the adjournment of the trial beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. Sub-section (7) of the same section provides that every election petition shall be tried as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial. These provisions were made in 1966 and there appears to be little scope for achieving the objective through any further changes in procedure or through amendment of the laws. The Election Commission has urged that the appointment of *ad-hoc* Judges in the High Courts would ensure expeditious disposal of election petitions. While conveying its concurrence in principle to the proposal, Government has informed the Election Commission that proposals for appointment of *ad-hoc* Judges should emanate from the Chief Justices of

the High Courts having regard to the number of election petitions pending before those courts. The Commission has recently addressed the Registrars of all the High Courts to place the matter before the Chief Justice for appropriate action.

Performance of Electronic Telephone Exchange in Sena Bhavan, New Delhi

2257. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new Electronic Exchange opened in Sena Bhavan, New Delhi converting '37' into '301' is giving satisfactory service;

(b) whether any complaint has been received about its failure; and

(c) the overall performance of the replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The performance of the New exchange is good.

Taluka Headquarters in Bihar without Trunk Telephone and Public Telephone Facilities

2258. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of taluka headquarters in Bihar without trunk telephone and public telephone facilities;

(b) whether these facilities will be provided in all the major villages and towns during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c). All major villages and towns having population of 5,000 and above have already been provided with telephone facilities. It is the policy of the department to