

vanaspati and so many other items. Wherever it is necessary in the interest of the consumer to have a price control, there the Government is considering it and having a price control but where it is not necessary, I do not think this exercise is called for.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that diesel engines being produced by the companies for agricultural development are of sub-standard quality. The engines purchased by the people in our area are of sub-standard quality and the farmers have suffered loss to the tune of lakhs of rupees. Ajeet Company has produced this engine and they are in collusion with the bank officials who compel the farmers to purchase this particular brand of engine. It has resulted in loss to the tune of lakhs of rupees to the farmers. Therefore, I want to know whether Government would order an inquiry into it. The engines supplied by Ajeet company to the farmers are quite sub-standard and the company does not undertake repairs even during the guarantee period. It does not honour its guarantee. I would like to know whether government would order a special inquiry against Ajeet company?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when any company produces sub-standard goods, certainly, the buyer will not purchase them and will go in for a quality product as he pays money for it. If a company produces sub-standard goods, it will have no market and there is a commission of judicial officers to take action against those who produce sub-standard goods. They take action against them. There are provisions in the Act for this purpose. For essential commodities, provision exists in the Essential Commodities Act. In addition to this, action against companies producing sub-standard goods can be taken under the Industrial Development Act also. Such things happen when the consumer is not alerted. We are prepared to do as much as possible but such things should be brought to the notice of the Government:

[English]

Repolling due to booth capturing in Assembly Elections

*183. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether repoll had to be ordered in many booths for one or the other reasons when polling for Assembly elections was disrupted on the 2nd March, 1985 : and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and number of booths State-wise where repolling was necessitated ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Repoll was necessitated at 146 polling stations in Bihar and 25 in Uttar Pradesh. Broadly, the reasons were :- destruction of poll, looting of polled ballot boxes, attack on polling authorities, snatching of signed ballot papers and inserting them into ballot boxes, group clashes, non-conformity with established poll procedure, etc.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Whatever reasons have been given here are bad enough and it is a very sad commentary on the situation prevailing during the Assembly elections. It naturally goes without saying that the Government have not at all gone into the reasons and fixed responsibility on the persons concerned, because they knew the principal persons or party behind it. So, I would like to put to specific questions. Part (a) of my first supplementary deals with the reply of the Minister that repoll was necessitated at 146 polling stations in Bihar and 25 in UP. The general directive of the Election Commission is that wherever there is more than 90 per cent voting, repoll should take place. Do I take it that only in these constituencies 90 per cent or more voting took place? or, would the Government give us the figures of the actual number of booths where more than 90 per cent voting was there and yet no repoll was ordered.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At one place it was 102 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is the achievement of the ruling party.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : That goes without saying, even though you may say 'No'. Now I ask another specific question. Out of the 146 booths in Bihar, where repoll was ordered, 60 booths happen to be in one particular constituency, the Islampur constituency under the Nalanda parliamentary constituency, whose representative is here. I understand that in these 60 booths what happened was in addition to

what is mentioned by the hon. Minister in his reply, the police and the patrolling magistrates, who were in charge of patrolling these areas, themselves captured at least 20 to 25 booths, drove away the normal voters, they themselves arranged for stamping of the ballot papers and put them inside the ballot box.

AN HON. MEMBER : They should have been given Gallantry Awards :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Naturally, the police officials and the magistrates did not act on their own, it was done at the instance of the ruling party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the question ? Be specific.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Out of these 60 booths, in 30 to 35 booths this is what has happened. Even then, the CPI candidate who was winning could not be defeated. So, an unusual procedure was adopted of cancelling the winning certificate issued to the CPI candidate and issuing it to the congress candidate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the supplementary be confined to this particular question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Is the hon. Minister aware of these malpractices and, if so, what are his reactions ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : The hon. Member has not asked any specific question.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : My God !

SHRI A.K. SEN : She has not. It was more or less a dissertation of what should be done, what was not done and all the rest of it and which parties were responsible.

Now, so far as Nalanda is concerned, her specific question was.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I asked about Islampur.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I find that in the entire Nalanda district, Constituency No. II, in three booths only repolling was ordered.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish. Then you can put supplementary.

SHRI A. K. SEN : If the Hon. Member knows the answer, she should not have put it. I am giving the facts.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I wanted to know what is the reaction of the Government to this fact ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : I am coming to the reaction in a moment.

The reasons are very clear and the insinuation that a particular party alone is responsible is not accepted by the Government. The Hon. Member herself knows that the Congress candidate was beaten, injured and was in hospital in the very constituency of Midnapore from where the CPI candidate has been elected in December, 1984.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. K. SEN. : His photographs have to be seen. He was very badly injured and the CPI candidate was the opponent.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : What is he replying to ? I wanted information about Islampur. I put a very specific question. He should reply to that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish. You can put supplementary. I am allowing you.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I know the excitement is naturally an expression of guilt.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : What ? It is on your part.

SHRI A. K. SEN : But what I am saying is that the Hon. Member did make an insinuation that all over the country a particular party was responsible for this. It was not confined to Islampur alone.

So far as Islampur is concerned, I have no information here that in Islampur repoll was ordered. Of the 16 districts which are mentioned, in which the repolling was ordered, I find that in the Nalanda District in only three booths repolling was ordered and Islampur is not mentioned here. If any specific question is asked, I shall certainly gather the information and put it before the House.

Now, so far as the reaction of the Government is concerned, it is a reaction which should be felt by all the parties, because free and fair poll is the concern of all the

parties. It is a national concern and not the concern of the ruling party alone. And in this matter it is a matter of regret that various parties took part in formulating the guidelines laid down by the Election Commission for ordering repoll and these guidelines have been approved by all the Opposition parties and the ruling parties. Well, the ruling party had changed in the meantime, because the Janata Party was there in 1977.

Now, I am coming to guidelines. These are : that repoll should be ordered if there is 90 per cent or more polling or it is felt that 90 per cent polling cannot be possible unless certain unfair methods are resorted to. The guidelines further stipulate that when ballot boxes are taken away by force, or when people are prevented from voting or when ballot papers are put forcibly and on a large-scale, repolling should be ordered. These are the guidelines given by the Election Commission and these have been followed. The repolling orders have been made in respect of the various polling stations where such practices have taken place.

Now, so far as 90 per cent polling is concerned, if a specific question is put, I may answer which is the particular polling station where 90 per cent voting or in excess of it was experienced and repolling was ordered on that ground. These guidelines have been followed faithfully and I have not got any complaint that the guidelines have not been followed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I would like to ask the Minister on the question of privilege. Is he prepared to face my privilege motion on the answer that he gave me about the number of booths being ordered to be repolled in the Islampur constituency. I said repolling was ordered in 60 polling stations and he says no. I want to move a privilege motion on this. Would he be prepared to face my privilege motion or he would look into it ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : Sir, I have made it quite clear.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You have to look into it. If she has prevailed upon you, you have to decide.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I am very sure on my facts.

SHRI A. K. SEN : If the Hon. Member is sure, I shall be very obliged if a specific question is put. I made it very clear that if a specific question is put, all the facts will be given. I am not one who says that every question that is answered in the course of a general query will be answered in faithful details. And I am not prepared to accept the challenge about a privilege motion because I said that I am prepared to put all the facts before the House if a specific question is put.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that it is only a tip of the iceberg and there is widespread increase in booth-capturing, rigging and impersonation, will the Government take necessary steps for providing identification cards, that is, every voter should have one photo with the Election Commission also to enable a free and fair franchise given to the people and fair poll takes place and the people's will prevails ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : This is a good suggestion and the Election Commission has been considering it for quite some time and in consultation with all the parties concerned. It is a very good suggestion, but I do not agree with the Hon. Member that it is only a tip of the iceberg because our election machinery and our elections have evoked admiration from the entire world. For a population of 700 millions of which the electorate today consists of nearly 200 millions, spread out among so hundreds of polling stations, repolling has been ordered only in 146 stations in Bihar and 25 in Uttar Pradesh. What about the rest of the country ? I think it will be unfair to make any accusation against the Election Commission which has been functioning in the most admirable way.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Not the Election Commission. Many people did not resort to complaint.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether a particular party captured booths during the recent Assembly Elections in Uttar Pradesh and consequently, repoll was ordered at 25 places. This is a criminal act. I want to know what action has been taken by Government so far in this matter and if not,

the reasons therefor.

SHRI A. K. SEN : It is the responsibility of the court to identify the culprits. If an election petition is filed in the event of a candidate's winning or losing the election, verdict thereon will come. It is not within the purview of the Election Commission to decide who is guilty and who is innocent. The Commission takes cognisance of complaints of coercive voting. When such complaints were considered, it was found that 146 Polling stations in Bihar and 25 in Uttar Pradesh came within their scope. That was why re-polling was ordered. Of course, in the complaints all are involved. You know, such complaints were received from the constituencies of big leaders in Uttar Pradesh. After giving consideration to these complaints, re-poll was ordered. I think, it is not appropriate to make an issue of this in the House at this moment.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is a separate question. You can put the question separately. No second Supplementary for you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This House is aware of the role of money power and muscle power in the elections. In view of this, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government proposes to have an electoral reform in the near future to minimise the role of money power and muscle power and to minimise the election expenses.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ : We will be dealing with this supplementary question about money power in the next Question which is coming.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Shivendra Bahadur Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already gone to the next Question.

H P.C.L. Unit At Vizag

*184. **SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR**

SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vizag unit of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, has come on stream; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The Vizag Refinery Expansion Project for increasing the Capacity of the existing refinery from 1.5 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA, envisages setting up of a crude distillation unit and a Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU). The Crude distillation unit has been commissioned in January, 1985. The FCC unit is expected to be commissioned by June, 1985.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that after F.C.C. Unit has been commissioned by June, 1985, hopefully how many new LPG connections will be available and what are the bye-products available in the market ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : After the commissioning of the F.C.C. Unit by June, 1985, the LPG availability would go from 43,000 MTs. to 1,80,000 MTs. That way, the availability of LPG would increase.

So far as the by-products are concerned, in the down-stream unit, propylene production would be there and that can be used. Otherwise also, the Naptha production would increase which can be used for setting up of fertiliser plants. Propylene will also be used for production of high alcohols which can be used for other things. This is what is likely to happen when this unit goes into production.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : How much foreign exchange will the country be saving, if the project has been in full swing ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I think, the net saving in foreign exchange would be nearly Rs. 100 crores.

Oil Prospecting in Thar Desert

* 185. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :