

rigging in certain constituencies in connection with the last Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) A telegram was received by the Election Commission on 18th March, 1977 from S/Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Jyoti Basu, Bijoy Singh Nahar, Makhan Paul and Ashok Ghosh alleging massive rigging in several Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal in the recent general election to the Lok Sabha, and demanding re-poll.

(b) The Election Commission had received reports from the Returning Officers of 8 Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal that the poll in 30 polling stations had been vitiated by violence and accordingly as provided in section 58(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Commission declared the poll at those polling stations to be void and directed a fresh poll to be taken in five polling stations on the 19th March, 1977 and in the remaining polling stations on the 20th March, 1977.

Rigging in Barrackpore, Katwa, Dum Dum and other Constituencies

21. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news published in leading newspapers in West Bengal on rigging in Barrackpore, Katwa, Dum Dum and other constituencies resorted to by the ruling party in West Bengal in the last Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The Election Commission had received reports from the Returning Officers of 8 Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal that the poll in 30 polling stations had been vitiated by violence and accordingly as provided in section 58(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission declared the poll at those polling stations to be void and directed a fresh poll to be taken in five polling stations on the 19th March, 1977 and in the remaining polling stations on the 20th March, 1977.

Provision of Funds for Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Broad Gauge Line

22. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of proposals received from the General Manager Construction, Bangalore for provision of funds for the construction of Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari broad gauge line for the year 1976-77; and

(b) the amount sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE).

(a) The Southern Railway proposed a minimum allotment of Rs. 3 crores for this project for 1976-77 for meeting the commitments made in the previous years.

(b) Rs. 3.35 crores have been finally allotted in 1976-77.

Victimisation of Employees during Emergency Period

23. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees belonging to his Ministry who have been (i) dismissed (ii) pre-maturely