

Public hearings held by Chief Election Commissioner

1112. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN
NAIR:SHRI ARJUN SINGH
BHADORIA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Election Commissioner held public hearings on certain issues raised regarding the expulsion from the Membership of Parliament and the Assemblies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The Chief Election Commissioner held a public hearing on certain issues arising out of the expulsion of Smt. Indira Nehru Gandhi from the membership of the Lok Sabha which were referred to him by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, as well as similar issues referred to him by Shri Suresh Seth, a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly who had been expelled from the membership of that House.

(b) Extracts from the operative part of the Order of the Chief Election Commissioner dated the 30th January, 1979 containing the decision of the Commission in the matter are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. L/T-3382/79].

Agreement for Import of Cooking Gas and Petroleum from Saudi Arabia

1113. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with regard to import of cooking gas and

petroleum with Saudi Arabia has been signed recently;

(b) if so, details therein; and

(c) quantity to be supplied under the agreement and expected time by which it is to be supplied and terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Arrangement for import of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil only have been firmed up from Saudi Arabia for the year 1979.

(b) and (c). According to the agreement the crude oil is to be lifted at the official selling price in pro-rata monthly lots throughout the year.

Proposal for a system of slash Fertilizers Units' Profits

1114. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to introduce a new system to slash Fertilizers Units' profits is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, details therein; and

(c) time by which it is expected to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). A scheme of price support on phosphatic fertilizers was introduced with effect from 18th March, 1976, under which the manufacturers were given a uniform subsidy of Rs. 1250/- per tonne of P_2O_5 to be passed on to the consumers in the form of corresponding reduction in prices of various phosphatic fertilizers. Based on a cost study of the phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers, the Government have now de-

ecided to introduce a system of retention prices for the complex phosphatic fertilizers and Triple Super Phosphate on the lines of the retention price scheme introduced for nitrogenous fertilizers earlier. The retention price system provides for a post tax return of 12 per cent on the net worth based on the prescribed level of capacity utilisation and stipulated consumption norms. Under this system, the manufacturers of complex phosphatic fertilizers and Triple Super Phosphate will be paid the difference between their ex works price in terms of the current prevailing price of these fertilizers, and the fair ex-works retention prices determined for their products. The scheme of uniform price support on complex phosphatic fertilizers and Triple Super Phosphate has, thus, been replaced by a scheme of price support related to fair ex-works retention price determined for each product. Under this scheme, while some of the manufacturers would be entitled to no subsidy or a subsidy lower than the uniform subsidy of Rs. 1250/ per tonne of P.Os certain other manufacturers would be entitled to a subsidy higher than the previous amount of uniform subsidy, the level of subsidy being determined on the basis of cost of product.

(c) The scheme of retention prices for complex phosphatic fertilizers and Triple Super Phosphate has come into effect from 1st February, 1979.

Recommendations of Third Pay Commission regarding Engineers Service in A.I.R.

1115. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Third Pay Commission had recommended the constitution of an organised service for Engineers in All India Radio;

(b) if so, why is it that the recommendations of the Pay Commission have not been implemented for over five years; and

(c) how soon do Government propose to implement the above mentioned Pay Commission's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). With a view to implementing the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, a study of the cadre structures of the Engineers of AIR was undertaken. This study has been completed at the end of 1977. As the processing of the matter is of far-reaching importance, Government has had to consult various concerned organisations before a final decision is taken. It is expected that a decision in the matter will be taken soon.

Recommendations of Verghese Committee

1116. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of Verghese Committee and details of action taken on them recommendations-wise since the submission of the report;

(b) whether the Government has examined the demand for the abolition/reduction of radio licence fee in the context of recommendations of the committee; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and final decision taken and if not, how soon it could be expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The recommendations of the Verghese Committee are contained in the report of the Working