

were held as a result of the election petitions being accepted on the ground of wrong rejection or acceptance of nomination?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** The House-wise figures are as follows:

Council of States . . . . .	..
House of the People . . . . .	1
Legislative Assemblies . . . . .	60
Legislative Councils . . . . .	3
Total . . . . .	<u>64</u>

#### RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES

**563. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) how many returns of expenses in all were filed in respect of the last general elections;

(b) how many candidates and election agents made default in filing these returns or within the time and in the manner prescribed for such returns;

(c) how many disqualifications were incurred; and

(d) how many have been reviewed and how many disqualifications still subsist?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** (a) Out of 27405 nominated candidates, 22188 filed their returns of election expenses.

(b) 7882 candidates and 850 election agents made default in filing the returns.

(c) 7682 candidates and 850 election agents incurred disqualifications for failure to lodge the returns within the time, and or in the manner required by law.

(d) Disqualifications of 2465 candidates and 217 election agents have been reviewed and removed. Disqualifications of 5217 candidates and 829 election agents still subsist.

#### ELECTION PETITIONS

**564. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state the usual time elapsing between the date of the filing of the election petitions and the time when the actual trial of the election petitions began before the full Tribunal as also the average period taken in deciding the election petitions contested on merits involving allegation of corrupt and illegal practices?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** I regret I cannot give the House the time that elapses between the filing of an election petition and the date on which actual trial commences as no statistics is kept of the dates of commencement of trial of the various petitions. Roughly 10 to 11 months are taken in deciding an election petition involving allegations of corrupt and illegal practices.

#### ELECTION PETITIONS

**565. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether any election petition has so far been accepted on the basis of wrong or false return of expenses alone; and

(b) if so, how many have been accepted on this ground?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES

**566. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state whether any scrutiny or inquiry is held by the Election Commissioner or by any other authority to find out whether the entries and the amounts given in the returns of election expenses are correct?

(b) Apart from being scrutinized and attached to the election petitions,