

- (b) Dispensing with printing.
- (c) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.
- (d) Grouping of matter arising from Land Acquisition cases, etc.

#### Mal-practice in Bye-Elections

2237. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to the notice of Government that there were many malpractices in the last bye-elections held in June, 1981; and

(b) what are the steps taken by Government and the Election Commission to arrange for fair and free elections including the preparation of proper voter's lists, issuing of identification cards with photos etc. as contemplated by Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) A few complaints in this regard were received by the Election Commission during the recent bye-elections held in Bihar, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) So far as preparation of electoral rolls in respect of bye-elections held in June, 1981, are concerned, no complaint has been received by Election Commission alleging defects in the rolls. The rolls are now being prepared polling-booth wise annually so as to bring them up to date and accurate every year. As regards, the issue of photographed-identity cards to electors, the scheme was tried on experimental basis in Sikkim during the elections to the Legislative Assembly of that State held on October, 1979. Thereafter, it was decided to introduce the scheme in the North-Eastern Region, including Assam and Meghalaya in a phased manner. The

question of the extension of the scheme to other States is under consideration.

#### Report of the Committee on Silent Valley Project

2238. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee set up to study the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof (including findings on the environmental implications of the project);

(c) whether Kerala State Government had expressed the opinion in favour or against the Silent Valley Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The Committee has not submitted its report so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Kerala Government has all along been in favour of Silent Valley Hydro-electric Project. The State Govt. has recently issued a Notification declaring the Silent Valley area as a national park excluding the area which will be required for the project.