

they are giving aid. The hon. Minister said that we would be paying Rs. 6 crores extra. In view of this, will we get some sort of compensation from the German Government?

**Shri Morarji Desai:** It is difficult to say all that just now because that depends upon negotiations.

#### Conference of Political Parties with Election Commissioner

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\*1065. { **Shri Braj Raj Singh:**  
**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**  
**Shri Arjun Singh**  
**Bhadauria:**  
**Shri Prabhu Narain Singh:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of various political parties had been convened on the 18th February, 1961 by the Election Commissioner;

(b) if so, the object thereof and the decisions taken therein;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Election Commissioner has taken a decision that even those political parties which had contested seats during last General Elections and which have definite programme and ideology and which have an organisation both in and outside the Legislatures, would not be granted the same election symbol in States barring those wherein the parties had been reorganised during the last General Elections on the basis of votes polled by them;

(d) whether it is a fact that the said decision of the Election Commissioner has been strongly opposed by the Socialist Party and that the decision has been taken in spite of the opposition;

(e) whether decisions of these nature are not likely to affect provisions of equal opportunities under the Constitution;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to eliminate such obstacles;

(g) whether it is proposed to convene another conference in this matter and whether any changes or revision in rules regarding elections are likely to be made therefor; and

(h) if so, when they are likely to be made?

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** (a) Yes, Sir; the Chief Election Commissioner met the representatives of the various political groups in the Lok Sabha on the 18th February, 1961.

(b) The object was to discuss informally questions of common interest in connection with the general elections to be held early next year. No decisions were taken at the meeting but the suggestions put forward and discussed were taken note of by the Chief Election Commissioner.

(c) It is a fact that according to the existing orders, a party, for which a symbol has been reserved in one or more States, is entitled to get that symbol allotted to its candidates only in those States and not in any other State.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h). There is no intention at present to convene another conference of political parties.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** In answer to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister has said that a party for which a symbol has been reserved in one or more States is entitled to get that symbol allotted to its candidates only in those States and not in any other State. Since this practice is hurting the cause of so many political parties which are supposed to be recognised on a State basis only, will the Government think it proper to advise the Election Commission to change this practice and allot the same symbols to the candidates of the parties which are recognised in certain States and not in other States?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** I have not followed the question properly. But if it is the intention of the hon. Member that we should give a direction to the Chief Election Commissioner to allow a State Party to use its symbols in all the States, irrespective of whether it is recognised in a particular State or not, we have no such intention.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** My point was this. In the Conference of the 18th February, it was decided that candidates of the parties which came into existence even after the 1957 elections shall be given the same symbols. In view of that decision, may I know whether the candidates of parties which are recognised on a State basis shall be given the same symbols in other States in which they have not been recognised?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member can only ask information and not make suggestions. These are all suggestions.

**Shri A. K. Sen:** The suggestions were already made in that conference. In fact the hon. Member's Party had not put forward that suggestion.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know what is the power of the Election Commission about framing rules in regard to the recognition of political parties for the purpose elections? According to the Constitution the Commission has got power for the conduct of elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants information as to the legality or otherwise or the competency of the Election Commission to frame rules regarding donations to be made to various parties.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** No, Sir. I was asking about recognition.

**Shri A. K. Sen:** It has been challenged in one High Court and that High Court has upheld the validity of these rules.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know the names of the political parties which participated in this Conference which was held last month and whether

there were only recognised all India Parties or other parties also?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Other parties too attended it, like the Swatantra Party. Prof. Ranga in fact attended the Conference. The parties that attended the Conference were: Congress, P.S.P., Communist, United Progressive Party, Socialist Party, Republican Party, Ganatantra Parishad, and Hindu Mahasabha. Prof. Ranga's Party also attended.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Increase in Number of Judges

\*1044. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Kalika Singh:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Governments are not in favour of increasing the number of judges on grounds of economy;

(b) if so, the procedure Government propose to adopt to liquidate the arrears of cases accumulated in courts for years;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to make justice speedier and inexpensive for people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):**

(a) to (d). Additional Judges are sanctioned for High Courts where the state of work requires it and there is no policy, as such, of not increasing the number of Judges merely for the sake of economy.

The problem of arrears in High Courts has been discussed with the Chief Ministers of States on several occasions, since June 1957, with a view to see what further steps should be adopted in dealing with the matter. The Law Ministers' Conference held in September, 1957, dis-