

(b). On the basis of the report of theft lodged with the Punjabi Bagh Police Station, a case under Section 409 of the Indian Penal Code was registered. However, as no clue of the alleged theft could be found, the case was filed as untraced by the Police on 25-3-1969. It is understood that the Delhi Municipal Corporation has recently decided to refer the matter to C.B.I.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

#### Pending Cases before Mysore High Court

2120. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending before the Mysore High Court as on 1st April, 1971;

(b) the number out of them which are pending for more than one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint some more Judges to finalise the pending cases in the High Court of Mysore and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) 13,877 as on 1st January 1971. The figures as on 1st April, 1971 are not readily available.

(b) 7,220.

(c) It is for the State authorities to propose increase in the Judge strength if the existing strength is not considered adequate to cope with the institutions and the pendency. No proposal for such increase in the Judge strength has been received by the Government of India.

#### Reported observation of Chief Justice of India regarding undermining the prestige of judiciary

2121. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the views expressed by the Chief Justice of India while inaugurating the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association Conference, as reported in the *Sunday Standard* of 14th March, 1971, deploring the "insidious efforts being made in some quarters to undermine the prestige of the judiciary in the country"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Government have seen the Press Report referred to.

(b) Government are not aware of any such attempts being made to undermine the prestige of the judiciary. The independence of judiciary is fully guaranteed by the Constitution.

#### विद्युत कर्मचारी संघ, मध्य प्रदेश द्वारा जापन

2122. श्री हुकमचन्द कलवाय : क्या सिवई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विद्युत कर्मचारी संघ कोरबा (मध्य प्रदेश) से कोई जापन मिला है जिसमें तापीय बिजली घर, कोरबा के कार्य-करण की उच्चस्तरीय जांच कराने की मांग की गई है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसमें किन आरोपों का उल्लेख किया गया है ; और