

Use of Electronic Voting Machines

4622. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) the total number of electronic voting machines purchased by the Election Commission with the date of purchase and cost thereof;

(b) the number of electronic voting machines out of them put to use and the number of times these were put to use;

(c) the amount so far spent on their storage and maintenance; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to use these machines?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) 1.5 lakh electronic voting machines at the cost of about Rs. 75 crores were acquired by the Election Commission in the year 1989-90. 444 machines were earlier acquired by the Election Commission at a cost of around rupees Twenty five lakhs during the period 1982-1984.

(b) Electronic voting machines were tried for the first time in 50 polling stations of Parur Assembly constituency in Kerala in May, 1982 and subsequently in 10 more constituencies in different States as per details given in the Statement enclosed. The machines acquired in 1989-90, however, have not been so far, put to use.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Election Commission have informed that it is making all efforts to use the electronic voting machines in a few selected constituencies for the Assembly elections with would be due towards the end of the year.

Statement*Constituencies where Electronic Voting Machines were used*

Name of the State	Nature of Election	No. & Name of Constituency where Voting Machines were Used.	Month & Year of Election	Number of Machines Used.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Kerala	General	70-Parur A.C.	May, 1982	50
2. Nagaland	—do—	10-Northern Angami A.C.	Nov. 1982	12
3. Andhra Pradesh	—do—	191-Shadnagar (SC) A.C.	Jan, 1983	126
4. Karnataka	—do—	84-Shanthinagar (SC) A.C.	Jan., 1983	75*
5. Tripura	—do—	9-Banamalipur A.C.	Jan., 1983	12*
6. Delhi	—do—	1-Sarojini Nagar M.C.	Feb, 1983	26*
7. Delhi	—do—	3-Gole Market (SC) M.C.	Feb, 1983	27*
8. Delhi	—do—	5-Delhi Cantt. M.C.	Feb, 1983	25*

	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bye election	22-Roing A.C.	April, 1983	25
10.	Bihar	—do—	199-Chandi A.C.	June, 1983	159
11.	Tripura	—do—	18-Charilam A.C.	Nov., 1983	19

A.C. = Assembly Constituency, M.C. = Metropolitan Council
 * One common machine was used in two polling station located in the same premises.

Security Arrangements on National Highways

4623. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of vehicles have been ambushed, goods looted and many lives lost on National Highways in Manipur due to lack of proper security arrangements;

(b) if so, the Government propose to constitute a National Highway Protection Force on the lines similar to that of Railway Protection Force in Manipur area as Manipur is not connected with any rail-link to ensure the safe movement of goods/passengers in the State; and

(c) if not, the other measures proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the lives and goods of commuters in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Maintenance of law order is a State subject.

(b) There is no such proposal with Ministry of Surface Transport.

(c) This is a state subject.

Cooperation on Navigation between India & Nepal

4624. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and Nepal have any proposal to establish co-operation on the navigation aspects of river system of both the countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Joint Committee to look into the matter; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Terms of Reference and constitution of the joint study team to study navigational possibilities in Gandak and Kamali rivers are being finalised by both countries jointly.

[Translation]

Cyclone Forecast

4625. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to extend the range of existing radars on the Western Coast in view of the heavy loss caused recently by the cyclone in Saurashtra and the Kutch areas so that weather related information and forecast could be made effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c): The range of the existing cyclone detection radars on the western coast is 500 kms. However, the detection of meteorological targets by such radars is limited to 400