

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) According to existing provisions, death of a candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny and who has not withdrawn results in countermanding of poll provided the report of his death is received before the commencement of the poll.

(b) The Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha contains certain proposals to discourage non-serious independent candidates from contesting elections. One such provision is to increase the security deposit in case of an independent candidate to 5000 rupees and in case of a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to 25000 rupees. Another proposal is to provide State funding to a certain extent only to the candidates belonging to recognised political parties and not to any independent candidates. The Bill also contains a provision that no election should be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate. It is also proposed to make further in depth study in the matter as a part of general electoral reforms.

[Translation]

Security to Candidates Contesting Elections

*1571. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide full security to all the candidates contesting elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). In April, 1991, the Election Commission of India had issued instructions to the concerned State Governments to provide adequate security during the General Elections to Lok Sabha and a few State Assemblies in May, June, 1991, to all contesting candidates depending on the nature of risk and threat to their person irrespective of party affiliation. Extra security was to be provided in sensitive areas/pockets. These instructions were reiterated by the Commission for the bye-elections and countermanded elections to be held on 16th November, 1991. The security was to be provided until the completion of election process and if necessary, even thereafter to prevent post election reprisals.

(c). Does not arise.

Improvement in Service Conditions of the Civilian Employees of Army Headquarters canteens in New Delhi

1572. SHRI RAM SAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for improving the service conditions of the civilian employees of various canteens in New Delhi, run by the Army headquarters; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is a Unit Run Canteen (URC) in the Army Headquarters which sells consumer goods obtained through the Canteen Stores Depart-

ment. This URC is a Regimental Canteen run by a management committee. The employees of the URC are not Government employees. The Government, therefore, has no jurisdiction to determine the terms and conditions of service of these employees. The Government have not received any proposal for improving their service conditions.

There are sixteen non-statutory departmental Canteens/Tiffin Rooms located in the three Service Headquarters and Inter Service Organisations. There is no separate Canteen exclusively for the Army Headquarter. There Canteens are run by their respective Management Committees. The employees of these Canteen are governed by rules laid down by the Department of Personnel & Training.

[English]

Supply of Spares for Bofors Guns

1573 SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the taking over of the Nobel Industries by the Swedish Government;

(b) whether the take-over will affect the supply of spare parts for the Bofors Guns; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure continuous supply of spares for the Bofors Guns?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Nobel Industries and FFV, a wholly state owned company of Sweden have set up a new company by the name Swedish Ordnance-FFV Bofors AB on 1.1.1991. Nobel Industries and FFV each have a 50% stake in this new company.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government has taken adequate steps to ensure the continued supply of spares for the Bofors Guns.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Bofors Gun

1574. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem, captioned "Bofors Bharat Main Apna Daphtar Band Karega" appearing in Nav Bharat Times dated October 11, 1991.

(b) whether the Government have imparted Bofors Gun maintenance training to its engineers so that these guns can be maintained properly in the absence of the foreign engineers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Training of engineers in the maintenance and repairs of the weapon system was a part of the contract and has been fulfilled by the suppliers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Irregularities in Deposits in Lucknow Branch of State Bank of Indore

1575. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints alleging that the officers