

out of turn basis from 'OYT' and 'Non-OYT-Special' categories at time of bulk release. Other deserving cases can be sanctioned from the Headquarters office on out of turn priority basis.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : It is replied that there are no telephone divisional committees in Maharashtra. But actually as per my information there is one committee in Pune and another in Bombay. Pune and Bombay are a part of Maharashtra. So, why this answer is given ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have them in Nagpur, Pune and Bombay.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : What are the special categories ? I would like to know whether the persons elected to the Municipal Corporations or Municipal Committees entitled for the special category telephone ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is a list of subscribers who are eligible for special categories like non-OYT S category ; non-OYT special category and OYT special category. It is a long list. I will send it to the hon. Member.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : What is the criteria for providing temporary telephones on medical grounds ? Is it a fact that STD is compulsory even if temporary telephone connection is given on medical grounds ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : On medical grounds, subject to availability of space in a particular exchange, temporary telephone connections are released. There is no question of making STD compulsory. But normally people who take this temporary connection also want the same facilities. In case they want it to be excluded the same can be taken into account.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : In his reply the Minister has stated that deserving cases are given priority by the Heads of the Tele-communication Circle and also by the headquarters of the office. I would

like to know whether there are any guidelines to decide the deserving cases ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is such a large number of waiting list and a large number of exchanges which cannot provide any fresh subscribers. There is no hard and fast guidelines. According to the exigencies of circumstances, namely, medical grounds, recommended by an hon. Member or there is some conference it is not possible to lay down all the guidelines but the whole circumstances attending a certain case are taken into account and special out of turn allotments are given.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : To create that kind of public participation has a policy decision been taken to set-up district advisory committees ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, as I said earlier in our nomenclature we call them as district committees. We do not want to go to the divisional level. As such, the sixty such committees for various districts and other areas, I think, are adequate enough to involve popular participation and representation of special interests.

Bogus Voters in Ladakh Region

*374. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether bogus voters were reported to have been listed on a large scale in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir before 1980 general election and were said to be still continuing unchecked ;

(b) whether it is a fact that many complaints were lodged before the concerned authorities for correction, rectification of the electoral rolls but no action has been taken so far ;

(c) if so, whether door to door verification is to be made and photo-identity card issued to each voter so that bogus voters are eliminated ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The electoral rolls in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir were intensively revised in 1979 prior to the holding of general elections to Lok Sabha in 1980. No complaints regarding bogus voters were received by the Election Commission in the year 1980, 1981 and 1982 either from a political party or from a public person.

(b) No, Sir. The only complaint received by the Election Commission in August, 1983 and again in May, 1985 was from the Hon'ble Member who has tabled this question. The Election Commission took steps to verify the complaints and to remove bogus voters, if any, from the voters' list.

(c) The Election Commission arranged door to door enumeration in 1984 and again in 1985.

(d) The Election Commission did not issue photo identity cards to voters since that scheme was not in force in any area other than those in the border regions in the North-East.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. In 1980 I was also a candidate and I personally sent a telegram to the Election Commission several times but now Government says that no discrepancy exists, as the Commission has arranged door to door enumeration in 1984 and again in 1985.

The total population of Leh district in 1980 was about 67,000 while the number of voters was about 36,000; in Kargil district, the total population was less than 64,000 and the number of voters was 39,000 or even perhaps more. Similarly, in 1985, the total population of Leh district was 68,380 and the number of voters was 39,485, and in Kargil district, the total population was 65,992 and the number of voters was 48,503. This shows more population, less voters and less population more voters.

MR. SPEAKER : It is by the law of averages.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : How has this discrepancy occurred? Will the Government take steps to check the bogus voters with the help of school register and medical experts and to enlist the correct voters. There are thousands of minor voters and those persons who have already died several years ago are still on the electoral rolls.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : After the hon. Member wrote to us, we sent his complaint to the Election Commission, and another fresh revision of rolls was undertaken as per the schedule from 2nd June, 1986. The date of draft applications of rolls was given 23rd June, 1986. The last date of filing claims and objections was given and on 14th July, 1986, the final publication of the rolls was made. And now it has been extended to 22nd August, 1986.

I personally feel that in this matter of deleting and addition of voters, the hon. Member could guide the Chief Election Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir and that might bring results. The name of the voters which have been wrongly listed there can certainly be deleted.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : The people are not satisfied with the machinery which is used for this purpose. Those who are responsible for registering bogus voters now again deputed to check those bogus voters. We do not expect any justice from those people.

Further, I would like to know why the Government is reluctant to use photo identity cards in that area. Ladakh is one of the most sensitive areas and many of the villages are just on the border or in the no-man's land. In view of this, will the Government consider issue of photo identity cards to the people? That would not only help in the matter of elections, but also from the security point of view.

Whether special machinery would be deputed from the Election Commission

to supervise the checking of the electoral rolls.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : So far the machinery is concerned, I have no specific complaint against any officer. If the hon. Member kindly passes on some information to me, on the basis of that I can talk to the Election Commission so that his viewpoint can be considered.

Regarding issue of photo identity cards also, the Election Commission alone can arrange for the voters' identity cards. In these two matters, the hon. Member should write to the Election Commission directly or to me. I am prepared to help him provided he gives me any specific cases or suggestions.

I remember that the issue of photo identity cards was being discussed at one point of time and the idea was dropped. In any case, in such a region as Ladakh or Leh, there should be no difficulty for the Election Commission to sort out if there are bogus voters there. We would not like that in specific belts like Ladakh and leh. The population there is small and this issue can certainly be discussed.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, as far as India is concerned, it is a cent per cent democratic country.

MR. SPEAKER : Could it be otherwise also !

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Here true democracy prevails. The maximum rights are being given to the voters and the voters are the judges in deciding the Government. Here in some of the States we are not able to identify the voters. Say for example Punjab. In Punjab almost all the people are having beards, and turbans also. So we are unable to identify each and everybody whether he is a Balbir Singh or Ramoowalia or some others.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is not right.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Why not ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : Look here half of my clan is like this half is like that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it should not go on record.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am not causing any aspersion over anybody. Sir, my point is that already photo identity card system was being mooted out by Smt. Indira Gandhi. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether for the whole country, this system of photo identity cards will be introduced ?

MR. SPEAKER : May I dispel one thing about that ? Half of my people are with beards and half of my people are without that also. We do not differentiate like that. That is what I say.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : Regarding identity cards, once this issue was discussed along with all political parties by the Election Commissioner. Then it was dropped that it is not possible to have identity cards for the entire population. If any specific case, as the hon. Member wanted, we can recommended it to the Election Commission and they can alleviate any difficulty of that region. That will be considered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, it is a fact that the Election Commission throughout the country do not have any independent machinery of their own to conduct electoral roll revision programme. In view of that, whether it is a fact that there are several allegations from the State of West Bengal—why do you laugh Mr. Jaipal Reddy, don't laugh.....
(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not making any allegation, but I just want to know, because the Election Commission has to depend on the State Government machinery and they have to prepare the entire

electoral programme, as people do not have any say in respect of official political parties, will the Ministry, keeping in view of their earlier announcement that they will come out very soon with the electoral reforms programme, to make a specific study case so far as West Bengal is concerned ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is Mr. Munsii preparing a ground for the next elections ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: The fact remains that the summary revision which begins from September 1, nobody is very sure whether the names will be admitted, because the much politicised State machinery is indulging—and now the Bangladeshi infiltrators are getting contracts through local Panchayats—that we will give you ration cards for the minors and we will fill up the electoral rolls and I myself complained the four or five District Magistrates in my recent tours and they say that we are helpless, and you talk to the local party of the Left Front. How can you ensure peaceful elections based on this method in West Bengal ? Will you take up the matter with the Election Commission ? That I want to know.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : All though the question is not related to the original question, but this is an allegation of the hon. Member. We will get it examined through the Election Commission. There are sure complaints, when the Elections are there, almost from everywhere, but I am proud to say that the Election machinery in the country at the time functions as far as possible independently and that is how there has been fair elections in the country. If there are any specific allegations, we can always get them examined.

International STD Services in Kerala

*375. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries ;

(b) whether he has received representations from Kerala requesting for including more places in the State on the International STD network ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries are listed in the statement given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This does not apply in view of (b).

(d) Government have already planned to provide progressively International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities to all stations available on National Subscriber Dialling (NSD) Network. The work on this scheme has already commenced.

Statement

Cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries.

1. Bombay
2. Delhi
3. Calcutta
4. Madras
5. Gurgaon
6. Agra
7. Saharanpur
8. Muzaffarnagar
9. Meerut
10. Panjim
11. Kalyan
12. Chowdwar
13. Rohtak
14. Hissar
15. Bhiwani