

Proposal to set up an Election Fund

*192. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an election fund; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) There is no such proposal under Government's consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : We know our limitation in regard to election and also in regard to election expenditure. Nowa days the election expenses are going very high. The poor person cannot afford such huge election expenses because of his poor financial condition. If the Government does not come forward for the rescue of the poor by setting up an Election Fund, the poor people will not come forward to contest in the election. So, I want to know whether the Government proposes to set up an Election Fund.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: No Sir. I have already said that.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It is a long standing demand of different parties especially from the left political parties that there should be a provision to give financial aid to contesting candidates in the elections. I think the hon. minister is aware of the fact that the Tarkunde Committee has made certain recommendations in this regard. They have made a recommendation for grant of financial aid to election candidates so that the poor people and the common people may contest the election to the Lok Sabha and to the Vidhan Sabha. I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister whether the Government will seek any opinion from different political parties and from the Election Commission on this subject of giving financial aid to contesting candidates?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The matter is a part of political reform. And I assure the hon. Member that as and when we take up this issue we will certainly consult the various political parties and we

will take into consideration the views of the Election Commission.

DR. KARAN SINGH: The Election Commission itself a few months ago— if I remember correctly had made a suggestion that the Government may consider financing part of election expenses. This is a very important matter which strikes at the very root of the problem that we face, of high election expenses. The hon. Minister, in his reply, stated that there is no such proposal under his consideration. May I know from the Minister—in view of the clear remarks made by the Election Commissioner will he initiate such a proposal as quickly as possible so that by the time the next round of elections takes place, some important steps would have been taken in this regard?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: On the question of time limit it is not possible for me to assure at this stage.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: Is the Minister aware that during the elections the anti-national and multi-national money is pouring into the national campaign and they create problems also for the election machinery. Is the hon. Minister thinking of evolving a way out to protect our election machinery, to see that such money do not decide our elections?

SHRI P SHIV SHANKER : My hon. friend seems to have a lot of more information which I do not have. If he does furnish the same to me, I will take it into consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage Of Coal In Karnataka

*185. SHRI G. Y KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to State :

(a) Whether Government are aware that there is a shortage of coal in the State of Karnataka;

(b) Whether the system and loading position of coal particularly in the South by Railways is satisfactory;

(c) Whether the State of Karnataka has requested the Central Government for more quota for the State; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto