

(b) if so, what measures are being taken in this direction;

(c) whether some of the State Governments have reduced the voting age to 18 for the local administration elections; and

(d) if so, which are those States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). The question whether the minimum voting age for elections to Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States should be reduced from 21 years to 18 years has been under Government's consideration, as part of the proposals for comprehensive electoral reforms. As the proposals involve consideration of important matters of policy, Government are likely to take some more time to take decisions thereon, including the proposal for reducing the voting age.

(c) and (d) According to the information received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have reduced the minimum voting age for Panchayat elections from 21 years to 18 years and Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal have reduced the minimum voting age for elections to Municipal Corporations/Municipalities from 21 years to 18 years.

Functioning of Special Courts

*8. SHRI N.E. HOHO Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Courts which were functioning during Janata Party regime have been held illegal recently; and

(b) if so, the details regarding arguments and the number of cases withdrawn as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). Mr. Justice M. L. Jain, Judge, Special Court No. 2 in his judgement dated 15-1-1980 on certain criminal miscellaneous applications filed in Case No. 1 of 1979 and Case No. 2 of 1979 held that the Notification dated 30th May, 1979 creating and establishing the Special Court and the declarations and designations to try the aforementioned cases, were not made in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and were therefore, of no effect and conferred no jurisdiction on the Court. He accordingly held that the Special Court was precluded from proceeding further in these cases. Shri Justice M. S. Joshi, Judge, Special Court No. 1 in his judgements dated 14-2-1980 (in Case No. 2 of 1979) and 18-2-1980 (in Case No. 1 of 1979) gave a similar finding in respect of the Notification dated 30th May, 1979 creating and establishing the Special Courts

None of the cases that were instituted in or transferred to the Special Courts under section 6 of the Special Courts Act, 1979, has been withdrawn.

देश में बिद्युत की कमी तथा बिहार में रबी की फसल पर इसका प्रभाव

*9 श्री विजय कुमार यादव : क्या ऊर्जा और सिंचाई तथा कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि समूचे देश में विद्युत की आपूर्ति कमी है; यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विद्युत की देशव्यापी कमी के कारण बिहार राज्य में, विशेषकर नालन्दा जिले में, रबी की फसल पर सबसे अधिक बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार बिहार में विद्युत का संकट दूर करने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करने का है, यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी धोरा क्या है ?