

future our apparatus of elections will be such that we can hold elections when necessary at about six weeks' notice, always, everywhere. If Parliament adjourns now the elections should be held within 4 weeks, or 3 weeks, or less sometimes. We are gradually limiting this period. It is completely wrong to have long long intervals, unless, as I stated, one is forced by natural causes or some other reasons. When there is no overwhelming reason to depart from this particular rule, I do not see why it should be considered as political and political motives be attached to this.

It is true that some hon. Members came to me a few days back—three or four—and said that they would rather have later elections. The parties to whom these Members belong, previously wanted early elections. But they have changed their minds.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow anything more. Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I entirely agree that generally speaking the elections should not be postponed. But, in this matter, what prevented the Government from announcing the elections when the Proclamation was made? Is it not because there was an attempt on behalf of the Congress Party to form an alternative government there? They failed; and then this decision was taken later.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I would like to answer that question: 'What prevented Government?' If an alternative government could have been formed, it should have been formed, undoubtedly, not by Congress but by anybody. It is obvious that the first object of the Governor in such circumstances is to see if he could carry on the Government without having the President to come into the picture.

It is the normal function of the Governor to explore that. But the real reason for the delay in announcing this was because we had to find out from the Election Commissioner what he could do and what he could not do. If he said that he could not do anything, the matter would have ended. There is no argument about it. When he made it clear that he could do it, then this was decided.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Four days ago, in answer to a question, the Law Minister said that the Election Commissioner had stated that the bifurcation of the double-member constituencies would not be complete anywhere in India before July and this is being expedited in Orissa because of Political considerations.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I never said that.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of a number of questions saying that the erstwhile Congress Ministers are interfering. Possibly, this would avoid further trouble. That has been cut short by announcing that the elections will take place. No Congress Minister will have any influence unless he comes into power.

STATEMENT RE: CENSUS OF INDIA, 1961

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement on the Census of India, 1961. I shall not read out the whole; of it but, if you permit, I shall read out only a few sentences and then lay the whole statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15].

The provisional population of India, excluding the populations of Manipur, North East Frontier Agency, Nagaland and Sikkim in pockets of which the census or the collection of totals is still continuing, on 1st March, 1961,

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

was 436,424,429. There was 224,957,948 males and 211,466,481 females. The increase in the last ten years for the territory and population so far compiled has been 21.49 per cent, 21.97 for males and 21.20 for females. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madras, Mysore, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh have registered an increase below the average of 21.49 while Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal have registered increases above the average, Assam showing the highest decennial increase of 34.30 and West Bengal the next highest of 32.94.

For census purposes the rest of literacy is satisfied if a person can with understanding both read and write. In 1951 16.6 per cent. of the population were literate, 24.9 per cent. males among males and 7.9 per cent. females among females. In 1896 23.7 per cent. of the population are literate, 33.9 per cent. males among males and 12.8 per cent. females among females. Thus, it has increased at an average of 0.7 per cent. per year for the general population, 0.9 for males and 0.5 for females. Not excluding Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan among the States which show an appreciable rise, none has even doubled its 1951 rates except perhaps Himachal Pradesh.

Sir, I would also like to mention that there is another publication, *Provisional Population Totals*. This publication has been kept in the Library. But we propose, as soon as enough copies are printed, to supply to every Member of this House a copy.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: As early as possible.

Shri A. C. Guha: That short statement may also be supplied to us.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT.

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): Sir, on behalf of Shri Raj Bahadur, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. F.12/48/60-Transport published in the Delhi Gazette dated the 19th January, 1961 making certain amendment to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. [Placed in Library. See LT-2775/61].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER INDIAN ELECTRICITY ACT

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications making certain further amendments to the Indian Electricity Rules, 1956, under sub-section (3) of Section 38 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910:—

- (i) G.S.R. No. 1494, dated the 7th December, 1960.
- (ii) G.S.R. No. 255 dated the 10th February, 1961. [Placed in Library. See LT-2776/61].

12.47 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 20th March, 1961:

- (1) The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 1961.
- (2) The U.P. Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Bill, 1961.
- (3) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1961.
- (4) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bills, 1961.
- (5) The Railway Passenger Fares (Repeal) Bill, 1961.
- (6) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1961.