

House to look into this whole question and give their opinion.

Mr. Speaker: There is no harm if I go a little out of the way. I request the hon. Minister and the hon. Member to come to me and let me also go through it. This is only a suggestion. I want to avoid misunderstanding. Both the Minister and the Member are honourable. There seems to be some misunderstanding. Of course, I cannot compel them to come to me, but if both of them agree, they can kindly come over to me and let me also look into this matter.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur). When are they to meet you? You can fix the time also.

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter between us.

12.36 hrs.

POINT OF INFORMATION GENERAL ELECTIONS

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Bishnath): Mr. Speaker, since Parliament is adjourning today, I want to ask a question I have given a calling attention notice about the question whether polling days will be declared as paid public holidays. When we raised the question with the Election Commission, they told us that it is for the Government to do it, because it is not within their jurisdiction. I had written to the Prime Minister also. I had spoken to the Law Minister and I also put in a calling attention notice. Everything has been disallowed. Would you permit me to ask this question through you to the Law Minister whether Government propose to take any action in view of the fact that in most places in West Bengal, electricity is so short and we do not have one day on which all factories are closed? The entire industry is stalled. Therefore, it will be very difficult for industrial workers to cast their votes unless it is a paid holiday. Two hours respite does not do the work.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member raised the same point the other day.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Yes, Sir. I said on that occasion also that so far as the Government are concerned, they have advised all the State Governments to declare local holidays for the areas where polling takes place. As I said, efforts rest with the Chief Election Commissioner to fix the date which is either a declared local holiday or a public holiday like a Sunday. More than that, it is not within the competence of the Government to compel the employers to grant paid holidays on the polling days. Employers of factories and commercial establishments—i.e. non-government employers—are also requested to grant adequate time to the workers to enable them to go to their respective polling booths to cast their votes. I do not know what time is usually granted by these factories and other establishments, but we have not any power up till now to compel these factors or other non-government establishments to allow paid holidays for the polling days. This time, booths would be set up very near the voters of every area and in fact, the number of booths will be far greater than than the number during the last two elections. It is expected that in regard to factories and industrial establishments, it will not be inconvenient for the workers to go and cast their votes during the time allowed to them by these non-government establishments for casting their votes.

If in future, we find that really any impediment is deliberately sought to put in the way of workers casting their votes near the factories and so on, we would consider introducing adequate legislation in future. But up till now orders have not been passed either for the Chief Election Commissioner or the local Government to compel any particular course of action. Up till now no complaint has been received by the Chief Election Commissioner in the last two elections that workers in any industrial area or other areas where commercial establishments are functioning had suffered from any disability in

[Shri A. K. Sen]

going and casting their votes. If there are any specific instances even prior to the election, I would be very glad to receive it myself or I would request the hon. Member to refer it to the local Chief Electoral Officer.

12.38 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF INDIAN RARE EARTHS LIMITED AND TRAVANCORE MINERALS LIMITED

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesinhrao Gaekwad): On behalf of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Bombay for the year 1960-61 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Travancore Minerals Limited, Quilon, for the year 1960-61 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3424/61].

STUDY REPORT ON INCIDENCE OF INDIRECT TAXATION

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat): On behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Study Report on the Incidence of Indirect Taxation (1958-59). [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3425/61].

ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

The Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg

to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel, Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1960-61 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (ii) Review by the Government of the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3426/61].

ANNUAL REPORT OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): On behalf of Shri Krishna Menon, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual Report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1960-61 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3427/61].

DELIMITATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY AND ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES ORDER, 1961

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961 under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3428/61].

Shri B. Das Gupta (Purulia): May I submit, Sir, that copies should be circulated to all Members. We cannot do anything without it. It may be done State-wise.

Mr. Speaker: Copies will be available in the Library. I can never allow the whole Delimitation Order to be circulated.