

have been made against it by all the Chief Ministers in the past. The tragedy is that the present Chief Minister is fighting for his own existence and not for UP. May I know whether any decision has been taken by the Planning Commission to remove the backwardness of UP, specially the eastern districts of UP, and if so what are the steps taken by the Government ?

MR. SPFAKFR : The main question was a specific one to which the hon. Minister replied that information is being collected. It is much better to wait for that information.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This information cannot be collected from the UP Government. It is available with the Planning Commission itself. I am surprised that the Planning Commission and the Minister do not know what industries are being set up in UP.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I will explain the position. This relates to industries and industries include all types, major, minor and even village industries. A large number of them are under the control of the State Governments. The answer cannot be complete until all that information is collected. That is why I said that information is being collected.

Alleged use of invisible ink on Ballot Papers

*22. SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the propaganda by some people that some invisible ink was used on the ballot papers in the Elections held recently ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegation is baseless and does not merit consideration.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : An allegation has come from responsible leaders of responsible parties like that of Professor

Bal Raj Madhok of Jana Sangh. They say that a chemical has been used on a mass scale which played the trick of effacing the ink or making it re-appear on ballot papers throughout the country. Have they got any expert opinion whether this can be done on a mass scale ? Of course, this can be read only in fiction but since this has come from quarters, which are considered to be responsible, I want the Government to reply to this question.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : It is true that the allegation made is that ballot papers were marked even before the poll on a particular symbol with some invisible ink and treated with a chemical substance so that the visible became invisible and the invisible became visible. The charge is so fantastic that we do not regard that any chemical examination or expert opinion is necessary. The system in which these papers are printed is almost foolproof.

As hon. Members know, the total electorate in this election was 275 million and the ballot papers printed were 335 million. All the ballot papers were printed, without exception, all over the country in Government presses. The precautions which were taken with regard to the printing of the papers, right from the time the paper was taken from the mills and sent to the respective presses till the time the papers, were used at the time of polling, were, I submit, so foolproof that no further examination is necessary. There was no possibility of any such fantastic thing occurring that invisible became visible and the visible became invisible.

Papers were despatched from the mills direct to the Chief Electoral Officer. Papers were sent under police escort, after the printing, to the printing officers and kept in treasuries with double lock and armed guard, taken out from the treasuries only one or two days before the actual date of poll and officers were escorted to the polling stations under police guard till the poll was over. After the poll, ballot boxes and packets of unused paper were stored under guard. The store was under guard till the declaration of results and it was watched by the representatives of the candidates also. Candidates of opposition parties could not have secured a large number of votes in some constituencies, which they secured, if this magic had occurred as is alleged. Even

while they failed in many constituencies, a substantial number of votes were polled even by candidates who were defeated. How come then that the invisible became visible and the visible became invisible only in respect of candidates who have succeeded! That is why I said that it is so fantastic. In many cases also the differences were large.

The surprising thing is that although the election began on the 1st so far as the whole country is concerned and the declaration of results took place on the 10th—there was a gap of nearly ten days—no one never thought of this magic or suggested that something like this had happened until the results were out. When it was found that the results were not favourable, this thing has been put up.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : May I know whether any representation has been made by the election officers that the Representation of the People Act should be amended to punish those who make baseless allegations against the Election Commission?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : This really does not arise out of this question but I can say that generally the question as to whether the law relating to the holding of elections needs consideration was being considered by a committee appointed by Parliament but due to the discussion of the House the work could not be completed. I am sure that in the new Lok Sabha, as my hon. friend, the hon. Member, feels, some amendments to the election law may be necessary. I do feel that they are necessary. The whole question will be considered afresh.

MR. SPEAKER : Some latitude should be left for those candidates also.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण : क्या मन्त्री सहोदय बतला सकते हैं कि जो यह इन्विजिबल इंक की बात उठाई गई वह उस समय उठाई गई जब कि शिकायत करने वाले नेता के वोटों की काउंटिंग हो रही थी या उन के बाद प्रोपेगण्डा के लिए उठाई गई ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I thought, I

told the House just now that nothing about this was said till after the results of the elections were declared.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I understand, the Jana Sangh, the authors of this propaganda, are printing their newspaper, called *Motherland*, on a Russian rotor machine and that they are using Russian ink also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : How is it relevant ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I also understand that when these newspapers are sent to new stands, *Motherland* becomes *National Herald*. That means, the Russians are out to destroy our democratic institutions from elections to newspapers.

If so, what is the reaction of the Government ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not connected with this question. Next question.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : This is also a case of invisible ink.

MR. SPEAKER : We pass on to the next question.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is a very important question. You allow some more questions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let them search their hearts.

**Closure of Braithwaite Co.,
(India) Ltd.**

*25. **DR. RANEN SEN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Braithwaite Co. (India) Ltd. has been closed down since 18th January, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to reopen the Company ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c). The Clive Works Factory of M/s. Braithwaite and Co,