

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : श्री मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि चूंकि बिहार में सेल्स टैक्स सेंटर का नहीं लगता था इस लिये बाहर से लोग आ कर वहां खरीदते थे। जो ऐग्रीकल्चर इम्प्लिमेंट्स हैं जैसे ट्रैक्टर वगैरह, उन पर बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने सेल्स टैक्स वगैरह नहीं लगाये हैं। क्या सरकार ने इस बात की खोज की है कि जब ऐग्रीकल्चर इम्प्लिमेंट्स पर टैक्स नहीं लगाया गया है तब टाटा मरसीडीज पर यह टैक्स या दूसरा टैक्स क्यों नहीं लिया गया ?

श्री फलरुद्दीन अली अहमद : शायद माननीय सदस्य को मालूम हो कि यदि किसी स्टेट में कोई चीज बनती है और उसी स्टेट में उस की बिक्री होती है तो उस पर 3 परसेंट सेल्ट टैक्स नहीं लगता है। चूंकि जमशेदपुर में ट्रक्स वगैरह बनते हैं, जो कि बिहार के अन्दर है, इस लिये सेंट्रल टैक्स उस पर लागू नहीं होते हैं। इस लिये उन ट्रक्स को वहां बेचने और खरीदने में 3 परसेंट का फायदा होता है।

दलित वर्गों की मांगों के लिये भारतीय रिपब्लिकन पार्टी द्वारा आन्दोलन

\*542. श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशावाह : क्या विधि तथा सन्नाज कल्याण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ने हाल में दलित वर्गों की कुछ मांगें पेश करते समय यह घोषणा की है कि वह इन वर्गों की मांगों मनवाने के लिये एक आन्दोलन आरम्भ करेगी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी मांगों के प्रति सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI MUTHYAL RAO) : (a) and (b). It is not clear what specific announcement the Honourable Member has in view. However, no such demands have so far been presented to Government.

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशावाह : दलित वर्गों की जो मौजूदा हालत है, क्या शासन उस से संतुष्ट है ? यदि नहीं है तो दलित वर्गों की बहुमुखी प्रगति हो इस के लिये शासन नये तौर पर क्या क्या कदम उठा रहा है ?

श्री मुत्साल राव : माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल पूछा था रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के मैनिफेस्टो के बारे में। पोलिटिकल पार्टीज के जो मैनिफेस्टो हैं वह हाल में मिड-टर्म एलेक्शनस के समय जनता के सामने आ चुके हैं। उन्होंने जनता के सामने अपनी पालिसीज को रक्खा और जनता ने फंसला कर लिया है।

श्री प्रदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : सवाल मैनिफेस्टो के बारे में नहीं है।

श्री मुत्साल राव : मैं बतला रहा हूँ। सवाल यह किया गया है कि क्या सरकार के पास कोई मांग आई है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के पास कोई मांग नहीं आई है।

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशावाह : मैंने मैनिफेस्टो के बारे में नहीं पूछा। प्रश्न को पढ़ेंगे तो यह चीज स्पष्ट हो जाएगी। मैंने पूछा है कि संघर्ष की घमकी देते हुए क्या रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ने कोई मांगें पेश की हैं और की हैं तो उनके बारे में शासन की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

श्री मुत्साल राव : ऐसी हमारे पास कोई मांग नहीं आई है।

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशावाह : मैंने पूछा है कि दलित वर्गों की वर्तमान हालत से क्या शासन संतुष्ट है ? यदि नहीं तो उनकी बहुमुखी प्रगति के लिए शासन ने नए तौर पर क्या क्या कदम उठाये हैं ? इसका उत्तर नहीं आया है। इसका उत्तर कृपा करके दिलायें ताकि मैं दूसरा प्रश्न पूछ सकूँ।

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : I want to state that progressively larger amounts are being spent by the

Central and State Governments for the amelioration of the condition of the backward communities. For example, in the Fourth Five-Year Plan in the Plan and non-Plan Expenditure the Central and State Governments are intending to spend Rs. 320 crores whereas during the previous 18 years. The total expenditure was Rs. 375 crores. Therefore Government are making all attempts to provide larger facilities for the improvement of the condition of the backward communities.

Again, in 1964-65 the number of Scheduled Castes school-going children has risen to 6.9 million and that of Scheduled Tribes children to 3.1 million—together 10 million—whereas in 1961 it was only 2.9 million and 1.2 million respectively. Therefore progress is being made. I do not claim on behalf of Government that the goal has been reached of putting them on a footing equal to that of other communities in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. lady Member.

श्री यशवंत सिंह कुशवाह : मैंने एक ही सवाल पूछा है। मैंने दूसरा अभी नहीं पूछा है। वह प्रश्न बहुत जरूरी है।... (इंटरपोज) ... मैं जानना चाहता हूँ.....

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to sit down. One has been answered by the Deputy Minister and one by the Minister. First obey the Chair. You must learn that first.

SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM : Has the Government analysed the reasons why the Scheduled Castes and Depressed Classes people are put to great hardships and are receiving inhuman treatment at all levels throughout the country and, if the Government is satisfied that they are not receiving good treatment and that all the grants which are given by the Central and State Governments do not go to them—I know that it does not—is the Government going to set up a permanent machinery at the Central level for ensuring for them security, protection and safety ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : There have been a few instances where there have been outrages against the persons of the

members of the Depressed Classes, but I do not think that you can generalise on that matter. This is closely related to the law and order problem and I fear the Central Government may be trespassing upon the jurisdiction of the State Governments if a security force is created for this purpose.

श्री यशवंत सिंह कुशवाह : दलित वर्ग के साथ छुआछूत आदि का भेदभाव होना है और उसको अभी तक पूरे तौर से दूर नहीं किया गया है। उनके लिए नौकरियों में जितने स्थान सुरक्षित है, वे भी उनको पूरे तौर पर नहीं मिलते हैं। जहाँ छोटी नौकरियों में उनको मौका मिलता है वहाँ उनके साथ बड़े अधिकारियों का व्यवहार अच्छा नहीं होता है। इसी तरह से दलित वर्ग के लोग खेती के लिए जो जमीन चाहते हैं, वह जमीन भी उनको नहीं मिलती है। ये सब जो दलित वर्ग की परेशानियाँ हैं, इनको दूर करने के लिए शासन क्या कदम उठा रहा है ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The question of employment of members of the backward communities and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc. and also the grant of land to them is a matter which comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government, but whenever complaints are received here in the Central Government we alert the State Government concerned and request them to do the needful.

Moreover, you are aware that in the last session of the Lok Sabha, we appointed a Standing Committee of Parliament to look into these and other matters. The Government also appointed a Committee presided over by Mr. Elayaperumal to report upon the conditions of backward communities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The report is being examined. There have been complaints that in spite of the antiuntouchability Act, there is observance of untouchability in certain places and, if that is so, we are proposing to make the provisions of the Act penalising practice of untouchability more severe.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : As the hon. Minister just stated, the Elayaperumal Committee is said to have submitted a report

to the Government in which a thorough exposure has been made to the ugly type of untouchability that is still prevailing in this country, specially, in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and a glaring example of it is also given that there is a Vaishnav temple in Rajasthan which is administered by the Government itself and Harijans are not allowed to enter the temple.

AN HON MEMBER : Shame !

SHRI P. GOPALAN : I would like to know from the Minister why Harijans are treated as third grade citizens in the country. May I know whether an interim report was submitted by the same committee in December, 1966 and, if so, what action has been taken on the recommendations of that report or is it still lying in the cold storage of the Government ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The recommendations of the Committee are being processed and we will take action. Regarding the Vaishnav temple, I have no information. I will look into it.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : It is clearly stated in the report that there is such a temple and the Government has not taken any action against it.

SHRI BASUMATARI : The Commissioner of Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes has submitted a report suggesting that only by creating reservation in the vacancies, the growing demand of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people cannot be met. May I know the reaction of the Government in regard to that recommendation ? If that is so, the reservation should be made in general services.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The Minister of Home Affairs has already appointed a committee to look into lapses which are taking place with respect to the percentage of reservations provided for these communities. I do admit that there have been certain lapses. We will try to see that the percentages are kept up hereafter.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : ग्राम तौर से झूठों की और पिछड़ी जातियों की समस्या जमीन

की है। रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के लोग आज भी इसके लिए आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं। अखबारों में समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ है कि दिल्ली में ही उनको पकड़ कर जेलों में बन्द किया गया है। पिछली दफा उत्तर प्रदेश में हमारे दल ने और सोशलिस्ट पार्टी ने भी इस बात का आन्दोलन किया था कि इन लोगों को बसने के लिये जमीनें दी जायें। उस वक्त सरकार ने वादा किया था कि उनको जमीन दी जायेगी। आज भी लाखों आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनके पास बसने के लिए जमीन नहीं है तथा और कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। जहाँ तक झूझाऊत का प्रश्न है जब तक आपकी सरकार रहेगी, वह हटने वाली नहीं है क्यों आप स्वयं उस में विश्वास रखते हैं। उनकी जमीन की समस्या को हल करने के लिए सरकार क्या कुछ कदम उठा रही है या नहीं ताकि जो हमारे देश में झूझत हैं, उनको कम से कम बसने का स्थान तो मिल सके ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : So long as a State subject, I cannot give any assurance regarding lands to Scheduled Castes and others, but I can give this assurance that, wherever their cases are not being attended to, I shall alert the State Governments, request them, make entreaties to them, to see that they are looked after.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : It is not a proper reply. (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : It is very clear. We cannot blame them for this. He has said that land is a State subject and that he can only appeal to them, request them and all that. Therefore, I do not think that we can blame them.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में अनुसूचित जातियों की स्थिति में सुधार करने की दृष्टि से जो भी प्राविजन किया जा रहा है, वह तो ठीक ही है, लेकिन पिछड़ी जातियों में जो वर्ग आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से बहुत निम्न स्तर पर हैं, क्या उनके स्तर को ऊँचा उठाने के सम्बन्ध में सरकार के पास कोई

योजना है, जिस के अन्तर्गत उन्हें भी वह आर्थिक सहायता और विभिन्न सहायता मिल सकें, जो हरिजनों, अनुसूचित जातियों और आदिवासियों को दी जाती है ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** The attempt is to better their lot by various means.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** The main reply given was very much misleading because three or four years back, the Republican Party of India had launched an agitation in front of Parliament where they took out a big procession and put before the hon. members of the Government a few demands, and on a promise given to them by the Government of India, that agitation was withdrawn. I would like to know what follow-up action has the Central Government taken with regard to those specific demands put forward by the Republican Party of India three or four years back.

Secondly, I would like to know whether Government is aware of the humiliating position in which the depressed classes in this country are placed in spite of the Constitutional safeguards that they have. It is a curse of India that untouchability still prevails. My specific question with regard to this is this. Of late, we have been seeing a very regrettable development in this country; some advocates in some section of our country even pass Resolutions defending the caste system in this country. I want to know whether Government is aware of this and whether they will wage a struggle and do something to see that some popular movement is started to impress on the people the situation that is prevailing in the country with regard to depressed classes.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** I pity those advocates who pass Resolutions of this nature.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** What about my first party ? I strongly protest. I have drawn his attention to a particular matter. That agitation was there. Our Leader, late lamented Annadurai addressed that meeting ; I remember, I went along with them.....

**MR. SPEAKER :** You want a movement to be started.....

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** If you refer to the main reply, you will find that they have said that they have not received any demands, that they do not know about any agitation. But there was an agitation. Therefore, how can he give this reply ? It is misleading the House.

**MR. SPEAKER :** This is Question Hour. There is no point in losing temper. It is a general question about starting a movement against caste system. I do not know whether, in reply to a supplementary question, the Law Minister is expected to say that they are going to start a movement ; I wonder whether it will be possible for any Minister to answer that way.

**SHRI S. KANDAPPAN :** What about my other question about the demands of the Republican Party ? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** He has to do some home-work. Without that, how can he answer ?

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** His home is in Kerala. How can he do home-work in Delhi ?

**SHRI S. KANDAPPA :** Mr. Mudhyal Rao said that they were not aware of any demand. But there were demands..... (*Interruption* They might have been made long ago. What is the use of giving sops ? They have to do something concrete.

श्री बं० ना० कुरील : देश में अभी भी लाखों हरिजन परिवार ऐसे हैं, जिन के पास रहने और बसने के लिए अपनी जमीन नहीं है। वे बड़े किसानों की जमीन पर रहते हैं और उन्हें उन लोगों की मर्जी के मुताबिक काम करना पड़ता है। हम लोग तामिलनाडू के डिस्ट्रिक्ट तंजौर में गये थे। वहां पर जो बड़ी दुर्घटना घटी, उसका एक बड़ा कारण यही था कि वे हरिजन लोग बड़े किसानों की जमीन पर रहते थे और उन्हें बहुत कम मजूदरी पर काम करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता था। क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा कानून बनायेगी कि गांव में जो व्यक्ति जहाँ पर रहता है, वह जमीन उस की हो जायेगी, ताकि कोई उस को डिस्टर्ब न कर

सके, वहाँ से हटा न सके या इजेक्ट न कर सके ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : This again is a question regarding land. As you know, Sir, this House is incompetent to pass any legislation with respect to giving fixity of land to Harijans.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि...

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय,.....

MR. SPEAKER : There is no use shouting. You should also respect other parties. This happens in the Communist Party. I request that the leader of the Communist Party should help me. There are other parties also. Mr. Shastri, you will have to sit down. This shouting should not be allowed. Yesterday I gave chance to somebody and Mr. Pandey shouts. Today I gave chance to Mr. Pandey and Mr. Shastri shouts. We cannot continue in this manner. There are a number of people who should be given the time, not one party monopolising the whole thing.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं शुरू से ही खड़ा हो रहा हूँ। (व्यवधान) मुझे भी प्रश्न पूछने का अवसर दिया जाये। (व्यवधान) मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का मौका नहीं दिया गया है।

MR. SPEAKER : If you feel like that you may go out. I don't want to name you.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं शुरू से खड़ा हो रहा हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : Will you kindly sit down or go out ? You may please do one of the two things.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : तो फिर हंगामा होगा। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER : It should not become the monopoly of one party. You go on shouting. You will have to go out.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं शुरू से ही खड़ा हो रहा हूँ, लेकिन आप ने मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का अवसर नहीं दिया है। (व्यवधान) आप कई सदस्यों को दो-दो तीन-तीन बार अवसर देते हैं। यह गलत है। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not push me to name you.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : You are too lenient.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि छाठारह सालों में 375 करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुल कितना रुपया मंजूर किया गया था, जिस में से 375 करोड़ रुपया खर्च हुआ और बाकी रुपया न खर्च करने के क्या कारण हैं। क्या राज्य सरकारों से इस बारे में रिपोर्ट्स मिली हैं कि वे पूरा रुपया खर्च नहीं कर सकीं ; यदि हाँ, तो कितना रुपया बचाया रहा ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : On that question referring to the last 18 years, I would request notice.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : उत्तर प्रदेश में सीतापुर जिले में रैदास बाबा के जलूस पत्थर मारे गये। पीलीभीत में जो 200 हरिजन परिवार जमीन पर बसे हुए हैं, जंगल विभाग के द्वारा उन्हें हटाया जा रहा है। बलिया में कई घरों को जलाया गया है और हरिजनों को मारा गया है। क्या मंत्री महोदय उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का ध्यान इन घटनाओं की ओर खींच कर उन्हें उचित कार्यवाही करने के लिये विवश करेंगे ?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : I would have to take up with the U. P. Government about this matter.

श्री मीठा लाल बीना : राजस्थान के शहरों में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों द्वारा जो जमीनें पहले खरीदी हुई थीं, उन को टाउन इम्प्लूवमेंट ट्रस्ट्स द्वारा, उन के

चेयरमैनों द्वारा, अपने कब्जे में ले कर नीलाम किया जा रहा है। नीलाम में अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जन-जातियों के गरीब लोग उन जमीनों को नहीं खरीद सकते हैं और बड़े-बड़े पैसे वाले लोग उन को खरीद लेते हैं। उन लोगों ने इस बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकार को शिकायत भेजी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है। ऐसा कानून है कि अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जन-जातियों की जमीनों को उच्च वर्ण जातियों के लोग नहीं खरीद सकते, लेकिन इस के बावजूद राजस्थान में ऐसे सैकड़ों उदाहरण हैं कि वे जमीनें उन को बेची जा रही हैं और अफसर लोग उन की रजिस्ट्री कर रहे हैं। इस के बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** I do not know how far it would be constitutional to provide by law that the land of Scheduled Castes cannot be purchased by others. It is a matter of purchase. But if there are any inequities in the matter occurring in a State, and if the hon. Member Writes to me, I shall certainly write to that Government.

**श्री श्रीठा लाल मीना :** यह शिकायतें आप के पास आई हैं, प्रधान मंत्री के पास आई हैं !

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** I shall take notice of the fact from what the hon. Member has stated.

**SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL :** We have not been able to fulfil the constitutional provision that the social injustice should be removed by ten years, and this removal of social injustice is being delayed and delayed. In view of the fact that there is a large section of economically backward classes in India, may I know whether Government at the earliest opportunity will abolish these reservations and confine them to only one class and that too only to the economically backward classes ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** On this matter, I cannot give a categorical answer. It is a matter of policy.

**SHRI SWELL :** In the written answer which the youngish Deputy Minister read out with a flourish he had stated that the Republican Party had not sent any demand to the Government to redress the grievances of the depressed classes. But the conditions under which the depressed classes exist today are themselves a standing demand. The hon. Minister has himself contradicted himself by reading out figures about the amount of money spent on the amelioration of the depressed classes, as if the whole problem is one of rupees and paise. The handicaps of these people are also political and social. The hon. Minister had safeguarded himself very well by saying that law and order was a subject relating to the State. But I would like to know from him whether before the mid-term elections that were held recently the two States of U.P. and Bihar were under President's rule and whether the elections were conducted under the aegis of the Central Government, and whether it is a fact that large numbers of members of the depressed classes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, were forcibly prevented from going to the polls and acts of violence were committed on them resulting in deaths in many instances ? I would like to know what the Central Government did at that time to prevent these things and whether the people who indulged in those acts were apprehended.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** Regarding the mid-term elections, we are still awaiting a report from the Chief Election Commissioner, because under the Constitution, he is the authority responsible for the conduct and superintendence of elections, and we get a report from him after every election. Before I get that report, I am not in a position to say whether there have been murders and whether there has been forcible prevention of certain communities from voting etc.

**SHRI SWELL :** He says that the Election Commissioner will send a report. But at the same time he has said that it is a question of law and order. May I know whether when a person is assaulted and murdered, that has to be channelled through the Election Commissioner or whether Government should take action immediately ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** Govern-

ment have to take action, but the question is whether I know about it. I can know only when the Chief Election Commissioner submits his reports.

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** It will reach him after the 1972 elections.

**Bye-Elections to State Assemblies and Lok Sabha**

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- \*543. **SHRI R. V. NAIK :**  
**SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM :**  
**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :**  
**SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :**

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies for which bye-elections have not been held upto now ; and

(b) the reasons for delaying bye-elections in these constituencies ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI YUNUS SALEEM) :** (a) Four bye-elections are pending in the Lok Sabha and 39 bye-elections in the State Legislative Assemblies.

(b) Statements showing the number of vacancies, and action taken to hold the bye-elections to fill up those vacancies are placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-386/69*]

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** I do not know whether you want us to believe in the statement that has been supplied to us...

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is left to the hon. Member.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** It mentions the name of a State and a constituency and says, that the date of vacancy was 12.10.1969, and the reason for vacancy was death. I do not know whose murder he is contemplating.

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MEAON) :** It is a typing mistake for 1968.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** At pages 4 and 5 of the statement, we find a reference

to the Tonk and Nasirabad constituencies in Rajasthan. In regard to Nasirabad, it has been stated :

Bye-election scheduled to be held towards the end of 1968 had to be postponed on account of famine conditions. It is now proposed to hold the bye-election in the first week of May, 1969".

I do not know whether the Central Government or the Rajasthan Government or the Election Commission thinks that the conditions of famine no longer exist in Rajasthan or they think that there is food, fodder and water available in plenty ? In view of the scarcity conditions still continuing there and in view of the fact that the Government there is spending a large amount of money for providing relief measures, relief works etc. which might, and which have in the past been known to, influence the election results, will the Central Government ask the Election Commission not to hold the bye-elections till those conditions are over, that is, till September or October, 1969 ?

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** We do not generally direct the Chief Election Commissioner in these matters. The Chief Election Commissioner is the authority under the Constitution for these matters, and he has fixed May, 1969 as the time at which elections to the Nasirabad constituency will be held in Rajasthan. We do not propose to interfere with his decision.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** If the reason for delay had been specified as non-availability of electoral rolls or something like that, we could have understood. But here the reason has been given as famine conditions. Those conditions still exist and they have not been removed, and, therefore, it is perfectly proper for them to give advice and take any decision in this regard.

**SHRI RANGA :** About a million people are on the relief rolls.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** The hon. Minister has not replied to my question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I think he has no further answer.

**SHRI GOVINDA MENON :** There is no question of interfering with his decision.