

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : You remind them, not we.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : You see, there can be a cause for complaint if the Chief Justices give a training programme and it is not implemented. But when the Chief Justices have not given any programme and if we initiate a programme on our own, it will not be good. As soon as such a programme is received, action at Central as well as State level will be taken immediately.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : It is clear from the reply given by the hon. Minister that they want to set up an academy. He has also stated that action will be taken on the recommendations of the Chief Justices when such recommendations are received. I want to know whether it is a fact that during his tour of Rajasthan, the Chief Justice of India had said on 15.1.86 that the huge number of pending cases in different courts is an aspersion on the efficiency of Judicial officers. This is with this end in view that you said that the suggestions from the Chief Justices would be considered as soon as they are received. So, I would say that you share the concern voiced by the Chief Justice of India. Keeping this in view, you should fix a time limit by which this academy is to be set up.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : We on our part can set up a Central Academy the day recommendation from the Chief Justices of India is received. So far as the question of the states is concerned, it is highly improper for the Central Government to give an assurance to this effect.

[English]

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the training programme pre-supposes the existence of a cadre. There are State cadres for judicial service and I presume that the respective High Courts have got programmes for giving to the judges either as in-service training or training at the time of recruitment. We are concerned with the Central situation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is not putting the cart

before the house in envisaging an institute before the creation of the Central judicial service. I would like to know whether any progress has been made in the creation and establishment of the Central judicial service.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : The Indian Judicial Service is also under consideration but that does not form part of the training programme of the judges. That is altogether a different question.

[Translation]

#### Amendment to Election Laws

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\*24. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward legislation to amend the election laws ;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are keen to amend the election laws with a view to bringing about electoral reforms.

(b) The Election Commission had earlier forwarded a set of proposals on electoral reforms. Further consultation with the Election Commission is continuing. After the completion of detailed examination and the formulation of preliminary views on various proposals, Government would hold consultations with the political parties. It would not be feasible at this stage to indicate the proposals which may emerge on the basis of consultation with political parties.

(c) Does not arise,

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that consultations thereon is going on. Through you, I want to ask for how long this consultation would go on. Is there any end to it? What are the views of the Government in this regard? In case the process of consultation with opposition leaders takes unduly long time or if the Government do not have any views of their own, will the hon. Minister act on my suggestion and direct the Election Commission to evolve a system under which independents and anti-social elements are barred from contesting election and thereby clearing a way for the government?

[English]

SHRI A.K. SEN : It is very difficult to put a time-limit on consultation with the Election Commission because election process is the very core of our democratic functioning and, by and large, the process has stood the test of time and the last reforms we had was in 1976 and, after that, various proposals have come. Some of them emerge from the Constitutional amendment which took place by the 42nd Amendment and we are considering all of them. That was a very important question about Constitutional Amendment. There are various other important questions raised and a detailed examination would be necessary both from the point of view of their financial implications and others. For instance, the question of setting up of a political fund and election fund is a matter which cannot be discussed very quickly and speedily. Therefore, I think, in all election matters, it is better we have elaborate consultations before we crystallise proposals and put them before the political parties. We should not speedily finalise the election process and electoral laws which have stood the test of time.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Where there is a will there is a way.

[Translation]

By when you would be able to complete consultations so that this matter could be finalized at the earliest?

SHRI A.K. SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to it, I have nothing more to say in this regard.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The hon. Minister has not set any time limit in his reply. The cabinet sub committee is holding consultations on electoral reforms. What are its proposals and to what extent have these been considered? The President had clearly stated in his Address in 1985 that :

[English]

“Government are committed to a clean public life. They intend to initiate a wide ranging discussion on electoral reforms with political parties and would welcome their cooperation”.

[Translation]

No action has been taken in this regard although a year has since passed.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got a reply to it. Now you may put another supplementary.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What has been the opinion of the Cabinet Sub Committee in this regard and by when the Government would accept that opinion.

SHRI A.K. SEN : Action can be taken only when a proposal comes from the Election Commission. We are also having discussion on this matter. It can be finalized only after the consultation is over.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The Election Commission is an independent Constitutional Body and when an independent Constitutional Body has put forth before the Government a set of proposals, what is the difficulty on the part of the Government to make it public or to place at least before the House to make it known to the Parliament Members and to the Opposition Parties what are the salient suggestions that have been proposed by the Election Commission to the Government?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):** All those proposals which the Election Commission sent to us have been circulated to political parties earlier. That has been done.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** They are circulated and they are read out !

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI :** Kindly circulate to us. We have come now.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Late comers will also get.

**SHRI A.K. SEN :** The hon. Member will possibly bear in mind that a discussion in public is not very conducive to the finalisation of proposals before the proposals are finalised.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** With a view to avoid repetition of examination of various proposals before the Government, would the Government consider asking the political parties to submit their detailed memoranda on the proposals already sent to them by the Election Commission ? Ultimately when the Government is going to consult the Opposition Parties, since it is going to be only a ritual, would the Government consider inviting memoranda from the political parties now itself ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** So you believe in discussion ?

**SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ :** I think things are not clear. The Election Commission proposes amendments in the election law and circulates them to all the political parties including our party and we receive their comments and we discuss. We had a discussion earlier. Some were accepted and some were not accepted. For example, public funding of elections. That is a matter, which, as my senior told just now, requires a debate. With regard to other matters, I think we also accepted certain proposals and we enacted them. Now the Punjab election the Assam elections and the 1984 elections have given some clues to us as to how to stop certain things. All those proposals have been circulated and I am going to check up with the Election Commission

whether some feed back has, come from the political parties and then we have promised that sooner you want a discussion on this, we are ready for this.

**SHRI A.K. SEN :** As far as I remember, subject to being corrected, throughout the procedure has been that the Government first of all finalises the proposals which are circulated to the various parties and then the formal consultation with the political parties takes place and uptill now usually we have only brought amendments before the Parliament which have the sanction of all the political parties and no controversial matter has ever been brought because we have tried to keep the election law above party politics.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Wait for a Mrs. Acquino to be created.

#### Production and consumption of L.P.G.

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\*25. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production of L.P.G. in the country during the last three years ;

(b) the approximate annual consumption of LPG in the country ;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications are pending for the allotment of LPG connections ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of LPG to meet the demand (?)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :** (a) to (d). A Statement is given below :

#### Statement

(a) The annual production of LPG in the country during the last three years