

Multipurpose identity cards for voters

3596. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that every multipurpose identity card for voter costs Rs. 7.50 and the price is bound to go up in future;

(b) whether Government would recognise the passports held by certain voters for this purpose, in order to avoid duplications; and

(c) if so, what is the number of passports so far issued to Indian citizens who are above the age of 18 years, who will be eligible to vote in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The cost of the identity card was Rs. 7.50 when the scheme was introduced in Nagaland in 1982. Present day cost would undoubtedly be higher.

(b) Passports cannot be substituted for multi-purpose identity cards for electors because only a very small fraction of the vast electorate in the country, would be

in possession of passports. Moreover, Passport also do not contain other vital information relevant for election purposes, like electoral roll number, name of the constituency, etc.

(c) Such statistics are not maintained; Passport Offices do not keep data on passport holders agewise.

Composition of the present Finance Commission

3597. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the present Finance Commission; and

(b) whether any representation has been given to the S.C./S.T. persons therein; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The President vide his order dated 17-6-1987 under Article 280 of the Constitution, constituted the present (i.e. the Ninth) Finance Commission as under-

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| 1. Shri N.K.P. Salve, Member of Parliament | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Justice Abdus Sattar Qureshi, Judge, Gujarat High Court | Member |
| 3. Dr. Raja J. Chelliah, Member, Planning Commission | Member. |
| 4. Shri Lal Thanhawala, Former Chief Minister of Mizoram | Member. |
| 5. Shri Mahesh Prasad | Member-Secretary. |

(b) The Commission was constituted keeping in view the qualifications as laid down in Clause (3) of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951, enacted under Clause (2) of article 280 of the Constitution, for appointment as Chairman and Members of the Finance Commission. These are as under.

The Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons

who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who-

f) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or

(U) have special knowledge of the Finances and accounts of Government; or