

respective forums like the Budget Committee; Polls Review or the basic committees; and all those parties whose pre-election conduct and canvassing is based only on religious propaganda.

SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN: This evil was met by the 16th Constitution (Amendment) Act when the Constitution made it obligatory on any intending candidate to take the oath pledging himself to the sovereignty and integrity of India at the time of filing nominations and if he does not do so, he will be disqualified automatically.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister as to why he has concentrated on the proposal made by the Election Commission i.e., the Statement he has made. The question relates to the comprehensive electoral rolls. The Government, as far as I know is committed for that comprehensive electoral reforms and for that purpose several committees, including the Joint Committee of the House, also produced reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prefaces must be reduced.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am just coming, Sir. I shall not take more than one minute.

Therefore, there were other committees also. When we are to tackle the question of electoral reforms in the interest of cleansing the polity, would the hon. Minister kindly assure the House that not only the recommendations made by the Election Commission, but all the proposals made by the political parties and all committees made in this behalf will also be taken into consideration and a comprehensive proposal from the side of the Government will be produced and consulted with all the political parties, I would like to know whether the Government is agreeable to this proposal. Sir, if you give me time, I have got a catalogue of assurances made by the Government right from the year 1969 about the comprehensive electoral reforms. I give only one example ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary. You have put it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That is good. The question is whether comprehensive electoral reforms will be there instead of having that particular proposal made by the Election Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhardwaj, the simple question is whether you will consider only the Election Commission's recommendations or consider all the recommendations of all the political parties.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: The Election Commission has a method by which the Election Commission makes recommendations to the Government I had the privilege of attending various meetings with Advani Ji and others on electoral reforms in the office of the Election Commission quite some time ago. The Election Commission gives due consideration to the views projected by various political parties. After the consensus is emerged, recommendations, are made, because in this country the political parties hold different views on various matters. Sir, different philosophies and different views on various matters. Sir, even in various matters of national importance, there is no unanimity in the discussions. Whenever unanimity was achieved, it was always implemented. So what my senior friend, Shri Chitta Basuji says may not be acceptable to some of the other political parties. But the Election Commission is the proper forum where the views should be projected and from there the suggestions come. Sir, if there is any specific suggestion the Government will consider it and pass it on to the Election Commission. Therefore, Sir, ...

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Australian Parliamentary Delegation

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both of you please sit down. I have an announcement to make.

We have with us this morning, seated in the special box, Members of the Australian Parliamentary delegation which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of Honourable

Mrs. Elaine Elizabeth Darling, M.P. The other Members of the delegation are—

1. Hon'ble Mr. J. D. B. Dobie, M.P.
2. Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Fisher, M.P.
3. Senator the Hon'ble Richard K. R. Alston.
4. Hon'ble Mr. P. Duncan, M.P.
5. Hon'ble Mr. L.R.S. Price, M.P.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty welcome to the leader and other Members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that by the time they leave us they shall have seen and learnt more about our country and our people. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the Australian Parliament.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— Contd.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, in 1972 there was a committee set up by the Parliament. They produced some report and would this report not be considered by the Government of India when they formulate the proposals?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, the Government will consider everything... (*Interruptions*). He has answered it. Please sit down. Now Mr. Vithalbhai Motiram Patel.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether there is any proposal pending with the Government regarding increase in the security deposit by the contestants? Sir, this is a very simple proposal. I do not know why the Government is hesitating to accept this proposal.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, this is one of the proposals pending for consid-

eration. But one must realise that in this country there are a lot of poor people and any increase in the security deposit would really entail hardship to the poor people rather than the rich and the influence of the money power will not decrease and it will only increase.

SHRI M. VINCENT: Does the existing powers of the Election Commission have provision to debar the political party which disrespect the Constitution of India by virtue of their party resolution? For example burning of copies of the Constitution. If not, will the Government have any move to provide such powers to the Election Commission.

SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN: Sir, these criminal acts are punishable under the normal law. Therefore, there is no question of Election Commission taking extra-measures for this purpose. If a person is convicted that itself will bring some disqualification.

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद शर्मा: माननीय सभा-पति जी, मैं सैद्धांतिक नहीं कुछ व्यावहारिक बातें जो बांका संसदीय चुनाव में होने वाली हैं उनकी सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से पूछना चाहता हूँ।

एक तो यह कि जो बक्से में बलेट पेपर रखे जाते हैं वे 23 से पहले 22 को ही न भर दिए जाएं। दूसरे यह कि जो पार्टी एजेंट हैं जो वहां मौजूद हैं, जितने बलेट पेपर निकलते हैं, जब पोलिंग खत्म हो जाए तो उन पर हस्ताक्षर उनके हो जाए और जहां मुहर या सील लगती है वहां पर पार्टियों की भी सील लगे जिससे कि बाद में सरकारी सील तोड़कर फिर सरकारी सील न डाली जा सके। और अंतिम बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे सरकारी तंत्र है, चाहे पुलिस हो या मजिस्ट्रेट हो, वह सरकारी तंत्र स्वयं बूथ कंपैरिंग या गलत मतदान न कराए इसकी सुरक्षा के लिए आप ने कुछ उपाय किए हैं जिससे कि बांका या बिहार के संसदीय और विधान सभा चुनावों में लोगों को सात्वना हो?