

Press note by PIB regarding voting in Presidential Election

319. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Information Bureau had issued a press note carrying the appeal of the Agriculture Minister (Rao Birendra Singh) to vote for the Congress (I) candidate, Giani Zail Singh in the Presidential election; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was a mistake. Such statements should not be issued from the Press Information Bureau. Suitable action has been taken to prevent recurrence of such cases in future.

Public Trusts in Maharashtra State

320. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of public trusts operating in Maharashtra State;

(b) whether Government have received complaints in regard to violation of the provisions of the Indian Public Trusts Act; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL):

(a) and (b) There is no enactment entitled the Indian Public Trusts Act. However, in the State of Maharashtra an Act entitled the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, is in force, and information regarding the public trusts registered under that Act and the complaints made under that Act with respect to such Public Trusts is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints received by Election Commission

321. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the State-wise names of persons and parties from whom the Election Commission of India has received complaints during the electioneering period in connection with the mini general elections held on May 19, 1982;

(b) the contents of each complaint and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the contents of complaints received in relation to other bye-elections held between January 1980 to May 1982?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL):

(a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

322. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country at present;

(b) what is the maximum period for which these vacancies have remained unfilled and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (c) On 1.7.1982, there were four vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court. Two vacancies could be related to 1.1.1982 and 7.3.1982 when their incumbents retired. The remaining two vacancies cannot be related to any dates as at no point of time more than 16 Judges including the Chief Justice of India were in office. The question of filling up of the vacancies in the Supreme Court is engaging the attention of the Government.

On 1.7.1982, there were 89 posts of Judges to be filled in the High Courts. Their break-up, High Court wise and the dates from which the vacancies arose are given in the attached statement. (See below).

For filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts, firm proposals in their complete form are awaited from the State authorities in most cases. They are being constantly reminded. The need for taking advance action for filling posts which are likely to fall vacant has been stressed on the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices.

Statement

Vacancies of Judges to be filled in various High Courts as on 1-7-1982

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Vacancies	Date from which vacancies shown in col. 3 have arisen
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	13	26-12-1980 7-02-1981 19-04-1981 5-05-1981 1-08-1981 19-08-1981 18-01-1982 20-03-1982 12-05-1982 (Regarding remaining 4 posts see foot note)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	4-07-1980 23-07-1980 29-10-1980 19-01-1982 23-03-1982
3.	Bombay	5	20-12-1981 20-12-1981 20-12-1981 (Regarding remaining 2 posts see foot note)

1	2	3	4
4.	Calcutta	10	23-11-1979 23-11-1979 23-11-1979 1-02-1980 1-11-1980 28-01-1981 29-08-1981 22-01-1982 1-03-1982 1-07-1982
5.	Delhi	6	28-05-1980 7-06-1981 7-06-1981 11-09-1981 11-09-1981 7-06-1982 1-03-1980
6.	Gauhati	2	(Regarding remaining 1 post see foot note)
7.	Gujarat	1	20-08-1981
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	11-01-1980
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	23-02-1980 (Regarding remaining 2 posts see foot note)
10.	Karnataka	1	(See foot note)
11.	Kerala	3	1-08-1980 18-01-1982 22-04-1982
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	27-05-1982 10-01-1981 27-05-1982 2-09-1981 1-05-1982 (Regarding remaining 4 posts see foot note)

1	2	3	4
13. Madras	5		21-01-1981 9-07-1981 8-10-1981 8-12-1981 29-12-1981
14. Orissa	2		14-09-1979 4-05-1982
15. Patna	13		1-01-1981 15-06-1981 1-09-1981 2-11-1981 1-01-1982 20-02-1982 12-03-1982 (Regarding remaining 6 posts see foot note)
16. Punjab & Haryana	3		10-06-1982 10-06-1982 10-06-1982
17. Rajasthan	7		15-06-1980 25-06-1981 20-07-1981 25-06-1982 (Regarding remaining 3 posts see foot note)

(NOTE: These are fresh posts sanctioned with effect from the dates they are first filled. They are yet to be filled for the first time).

Exemption from court fees

323. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was consensus at the recent Law Ministers' Conference that the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society should be exempted from pay-

ment of court fees to enable them to seek redressal in the courts; and

(b) if so, whether the proposed exemption will also cover widows and distressed women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) and (b) One