

of the items discussed by the Conference of Law Ministers of States and Union Territories held in June, 1982 was the question of court fee. The Conference was of the view that on account of financial constraints, the approach should be to go in for rationalisation of court fees and not for its abolition. There was a consensus in the Conference that the really needy persons should be helped and exempted from paying court fee. The Conference set up a Committee consisting of the Law Ministers of Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal with the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs as its convenor to go into the question of rationalisation of court fee and submit its report.

Observation of former Chief Election Commissioner on large scale defections by Legislators

824. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

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

(a) whether Government have taken note of the observations made by the former Chief Election Commissioner, Shri S. L. Shakti with regard to large scale defections among the legislators; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of having suitable legislation to effectively check political defections is under consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Electoral Reforms along with other matters relating to electoral reforms.

Setting up of a Circuit Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western UP.

325. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the six-month time limit fixed for submission of report by the Jaswant Singh Commission of Inquiry on the desirability of setting up of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) and (b) The Jaswant Singh Commission was set up on 4th September, 1981 and it was to submit its report within 6 months. The Commission started functioning effectively from November, 1981. It sought extension of time upto February 1983, as the task entrusted to it involved a lot of work. It was decided to extend its term by 6 months upto 3rd September, 1982, to enable it to finish its work.

Working of Wakf Commissioner

326. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the work done by the Wakf Commissioner, Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the progress made in the implementation of the Burney Comm-