

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 Bi-rendra 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, 1932;

(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?