

Cases of misconduct against advocates

1778. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of a number of cases pending disposal against advocates in some High Courts; in which Bar Councils have intervened and delayed the disposal of cases; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Under the Advocates Act, 1961, charges of misconduct against Advocates are enquired into and decided by the Disciplinary Committee of the State Bar Council concerned and not by the High Court; therefore, there is no question of such cases against Advocates pending in the High Courts and Bar Councils intervening and delaying their disposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Smaller Exchanges

1779. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI V. VENKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of proposals under Government's consideration with regard to expansion of smaller Exchanges below 600 lines;

(b) what is the supply position of stores for this expansion;

(c) whether there is any back by factories due to strikes and if so, how to overcome the situation; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to encourage private entrepreneurs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) to (c) As on 31-3-80 there are over 5,000 automatic and about 1000 manned exchanges in the country with capacity of each less than 600 lines. These are expanded depending upon the justification for expansion based on telephone demand for new connections. At present generally it takes about two to three years between build up of sufficient demand and expansion of the exchange. The supply of indigenous equipment is not enough to meet all the expansion requirements. There was further shortfall last year due to power shedding and labour trouble in the factories. Steps are being taken to augment the indigenous production and in the meanwhile, to import automatic equipment.

(d) No, Sir.

Illegal despatch of coal

1780. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of coal of all types is being despatched in B. G. Wagons by the N.F. Railway to Haryana, Punjab and Delhi styled as 'Assam Coal' or 'coal rejects' without any sponsorship and cash memo; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop all these illegal despatches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Railways supply wagons for movement of coal from Assam only to the parties whose coal requirement has been sponsored by the State Government's concerned.

Rural Telecommunications Policy

1781. SHRI V. VENKA:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the recommendations made by the

Task force of the Post, and Telegraphs Department in regard to the Rural Tele-communication policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): Summary of Recommendations is attached. [See Appendix CXIX, Annexure No. 49].

Postponement of elections to Lok Sabha seats in Assam

1782. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the specific reasons for postponing the election for Lok Sabha seats in Assam for a year and half; and

(b) whether there was any occasion in the past when such a huge number of vacant Lok Sabha seats could not be filled up during a Mid-Term Poll; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Out of the 14 Parliamentary constituencies in Assam, elections were held only in 2 constituencies, namely 1—Karimganj (SC) and 2—Silchar; and the poll in 3—Autonomous District (ST) was adjourned as the Returning Officer of the constituency reported that he was not in a position to muster sufficient number of Government servants to work as Presiding Officers and Polling Officers in polling stations. In one constituency all the validly nominated candidates withdrew from the contest and in the other 10 constituencies, no nominations were filed.

The adjourned poll in the 3—Autonomous District (ST) constituency will be held as soon as the Government of Assam reports that conditions in the constituency are such as permit elections being held therein.

As regards the other 11 Parliamentary constituencies it may be stated that under the proviso of section 53(3)

of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 where the constituency or the elected members or the members of the State Legislative Assembly or the members of the electoral college having already been called upon under this sub-section, has or have failed to elect a person or the requisite number of persons, as the case may be, to fill the vacancy or vacancies, the Election Commission shall not be bound to call again upon the constituency, or such members to elect a person or persons until it is satisfied that if called upon again, there will be no such failure on the part of the constituency or such members. The Election Commission has not so far taken any decision in the matter.

(b) No, Sir.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plant at Bangalore

1783. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Central Government's consideration to set up a thermal power plant at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial Powers of the P and T Board

1784. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant independent financial powers to the P&T Board just like the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?