

offices have to perform postal delivery duties on holidays also, like regular postmen, the Extra Departmental Delivery Agents do not get any overtime allowance while the postmen are entitled to get Rs. 9/- as Overtime Allowance; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Extra Departmental Delivery Agents working in Department delivery Sub-Post Offices where no post of Postmen is sanctioned have to perform one delivery of paid articles only. The EDDAs in such cases are not entitled to overtime allowance. The Department have already issued instructions that EDDAs should not be brought on duty in Departmental Sub-offices on Postal holidays as far as possible.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Re-instatement of retrenched workers of Bishrampur colliery

654. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the details of the steps taken by Government to reinstate the sixty-eight retrenched workers of Bishrampur Colliery in Madhya Pradesh and to withdraw all cases against them and settle workers demands through discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): 68 workers of Churcha Colliery (not Bishrampur Colliery) were engaged in the past as casuals for jobs of purely temporary nature as and when required. The services of these workers thus automatically came to an end on the completion of the specified jobs. The question of their reinstatement, therefore, does not arise.

Voting age

655. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Constitution for giving right to every citizen to exercise his franchise on attaining the age of 19 years; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) and (b) The question of lowering the voting age, from the present 21 years to 18 years forms part of the comprehensive proposals on Electoral Reforms which are under consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Electoral Reforms. The question of amending the Constitution for lowering the voting age will arise only if the final decision is taken to accept the proposal, after necessary consultations.

सागर निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में उप-चुनाव

656. श्री प्यरेलाल खण्डेलवाल : क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में हाल में हुए सागर लोक सभा उप-चुनाव में उप-महानिरीक्षक (पुलिस) सागर क्षेत्र द्वारा राजनीतिक प्रचार किए जाने पर उपमहानिरीक्षक के विरुद्ध चुनाव आयोग को कोई शिकायत की गई थी ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका जवाब क्या है ; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ कौशल) : (क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) निर्वाचन आयोग ने सूचित किया है कि उसे ऐसी शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है जिनमें यह अभिकथन किया गया है कि सागर में तैनात एक विशिष्ट उप महानिरीक्षक उधर उधर जाकर एक राजनीतिक दल के लिए सक्रिय रूप से प्रचार कर रहे हैं और इस काम के लिए डाकुओं की भी सहायता ले रहे हैं।

(ग) ये शिकायतें मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकार/मुख्य सचिव, मध्य प्रदेश को उनके सम्बन्ध में रिपोर्ट देने के लिए निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा भेज दी गई हैं। उनकी रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।

Pending cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts

657. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pending in the various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India as at present;

(b) what is the number of cases out of them which relate to periods of more than a year; and

(c) what steps are being taken to dispose of such cases speedily?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) and (b) The number of cases pending in High Courts and Supreme Court and the cases pending in High Courts and Supreme Court for more than a year is given in the statement I.

(c) Steps taken to reduce the pendency is indicated in the statement II.

Statement I

Number of pending cases (as furnished by the Registries of the Supreme Court and the High Courts)

Name of the Court	No. of cases pending	No. of cases pending for more than a year
Supreme Court (as on 31-12-1981) †Regular hearing matters)	22,664	16,789
High Courts (as on 30-6-1981)		
1. Allahabad	145,893	100,867
2. Andhra Pradesh	49,761	26,031
3. Bombay	69,558	43,931
4. Calcutta	87,865	68,610‡
5. Delhi	37,130	22,810
6. Gauhati	9,433	7,275
7. Gujarat	21,717	10,149
8. Himachal Pradesh	5,947	4,870
9. Jammu & Kashmir	10,722	6,320
10. Karnataka	79,464	51,630‡
11. Kerala	32,436	22,479
12. Madhya Pradesh	38,227	20,486‡
13. Madras	70,796	49,950
14. Orissa	12,210	8,455
15. Patna	40,951‡	29,460‡
16. Punjab and Haryana	34,837	26,716
17. Rajasthan	32,203	19,888‡
18. Sikkim	42	8
TOTAL	7,79,192	5,19,935

†The figures for the Supreme Court are in respect of regular hearing matters. The pendency in respect of admission and miscellaneous matters at the end of December, 1981 was 60260.

‡Main cases only.