

be legally converted into a Constituent Assembly; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY" AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH JKAUSHAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not rise.

Payment of bonus to electricity workers in Pondicherry

2321. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Electricity Department in Pondicherry does not fulfil the condition for the grant of bonus to its workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government of India propose to relax the condition in respect of Electricity Department, Pondicherry for the grant of bonus at par with the other Electricity Boards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Electricity Department in Pondicherry is a Government department and therefore the question of payment of bonus to its workers does not arise.

Appointments Of Persons belonging to SC/ST In E.D. Posts

2322. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of ED appointments made in the Pondicherry Postal Division for the last three years;

(b) what is the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates appointed during this period;

(c) whether the instructions to the effect that candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities should be given top priority, while appointments are made to E.D. posts are not deliberately followed in Pondicherry Division; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the defaulting officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) The total number of ED appointments made in the Pondicherry Postal Division for the last three years is 97.

(b) No. of SC candidates was 16; and No. of ST candidates was 1.

(c) The instructions regarding giving preference to the SC/ST candidates are always kept in mind so that at least the reserved quota vacancies can be filled up. Unfortunately, sufficient number of "eligible" SC/ST candidates did not come forward to fill up the E.D. appointments.

(d) Question does not arise.

Expert Committee recommendations on polling system

2323. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert committee constituted by the Election Commission among its major recommendations has favoured one-day country-wide poll and also introduction of electronic voting machines;

(b) if so, what is Government's reactions in the matter; and

(c) what are the other important recommendations of the committee?

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

(b) The recommendations made by the Committee are still at the stage of consideration by the Election Commission.

(c) The other main recommendations *inter alia* relate to intensive revision of electoral rolls just before a general election, periodical inspection of places where the election materials are stored by the Chief Electoral Officer or his deputies and the administrative set-up of the election machinery in the States and Union territories. As regards the election machinery in the States and Union territories, it has been recommended that the Chief Electoral Officer should be preferably Chief Secretary, or one of the senior Secretaries in a State, preferably with field experience, and in the Union territories, it would be desirable to designate the Chief Secretary alone as the Chief Electoral Officer. The recommendations also suggest the quantum of additional staff for revision of rolls and conduct of elections and the period for which additional staff might be sanctioned.

Setting up of Enforcement Wing by MRTP Commission

2324. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH: HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an enforcement wing by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether some measures are also proposed to be taken to encourage competition among the monopoly houses to ensure supply of quality goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The High Powered Expert Committee (Sachar Committee) has *inter alia*, made some recommendations for prohibiting certain types of restrictive trade/unfair trade practices. The recommendations of the aforesaid Committee in regard to the amendment of the provisions of the MRTP Act are under active consideration of the Government. However, initiation of measures to encourage competition to ensure supply of quality goods will not fall within the ambit of MRTP Act or the MRTP Commission.

Extracting coal from areas under inhabitation

2325. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any (steps or made studies for extraction of coal from mines in urban areas without affecting the structures and buildings and shifting of population;

(b) whether any study has been made to transport coal by pipelines as is done in some European countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad is working on development of techniques for working beneath surface features, water bodies and other constraints) by the control of the mining harmony.