

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints against M/s. South India Viscose Limited

365. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints were received against M/s. South India Viscose Limited in Tamil Nadu; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take against the Managing Director of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The main complaints against the Managing Director of M/s South India Viscose Limited were as follows:—

(i) that a fraud was committed in Foreign Exchange by Shri R. Venkataswamy Naidu in the import of Capital goods for pulp plant;

(ii) that while licence was issued in 1974 for the import of 43 items valued at Rs. 2.95 crores, Shri Naidu in collusion with his counterparts in Italy imported 21 items valued at Rs. 2.95 crores escalating the prices correspondingly, thereby Shri Naidu made over Rs. 1 crore in foreign exchange which he deposited in a bank in Geneva (Switzerland);

(iii) Shri Naidu has given Rs. 15 lacs to M/s. S.A.E. (India) Limited in 1974 for allotment of shares.

(b) After receipt of various complaints, an inspection of the books of accounts of the company under section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 was ordered by the Company Law Board. After examination of the ins-

pection report, a show cause notice under section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 was issued to the company on 1-5-1979 on various points of mismanagement. After taking into consideration the written as well as oral submissions made by the company, the Company Law Board passed an order on 18-2-1980 under section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 appointing two Directors on the Board of the company for a period of three years. No action is contemplated against the Managing Director.

Alleged harassment of voters belonging to weaker sections of the society

366. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn that in various parts of the country and particularly Northern States, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Bihar, the Harijans and such other weaker sections of the community were harassed and prevented from casting their votes during the recent Lok Sabha elections in January '80; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against such persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending cases in the Supreme Court of India

367. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) what is the number of civil/criminal appeals and special leave petitions instituted in the Supreme Court of India during the last three years;

(b) what is the progress of disposal of these cases per year; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far or are proposed to be taken to clear these arrears of pending cases in the Supreme Court of India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI

SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) Statement I giving the information, furnished by the Supreme Court, is attached.

(c) The measures taken over a period of time for clearing arrears of cases are given in the attached Statement II.

Statement I

Number of Civil Appeals, Criminal Appeals and Special Leave Petitions (Civil and Criminal) instituted and disposed of during the years 1973, 1978 and 1979.

| | Institution | | | Disposal | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------|-------|----------|------|------|
| | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 |
| Civil Appeals | 2913 | 2559 | 3568 | 1229 | 1058 | 2980 |
| Criminal Appeals' . . | 517 | 534 | 825 | 282 | 338 | 836 |
| Special Leave Petitions (Civil) | 5411 | 6759 | 10771 | 5385 | 4414 | 8145 |
| Special Leave Petitions (Criminal) | 1400 | 2239 | 3619 | 1323 | 1786 | 3164 |

Statement-II

The following steps for clearing arrears and speedy disposal of cases have been taken:—

(i) The Judge strength sanctioned for the Supreme Court has been raised from 13 to 17 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) with effect from the 31st December, 1977 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

(ii) The Supreme Court Rules have been amended to vest more powers in the Registrar and Judges in Chambers so that the time of the court is not wasted in petty miscellaneous matters. Other amendments have also been made in the Rules for ensuring expedition.

(iii) The Supreme Court have intimated that—

(a) Cases involving a common question are being grouped together by the Supreme Court so that with one judgment the whole group is disposed of.

(b) The final list of pending matters is always under review of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and special Benches are constituted to dispose of old and pending matters.

(c) The Supreme Court Rules were revised in 1966 and the job of printing of appeal records which was being done previously by the High Court, was taken over by the Registry with a view to speedy disposal of cases. In

several matters, the Court dispenses with the printing of appeal record and directs the hearing of appeals on Special Leave Paper Books and in urgent matters it fixes a date for an early hearing of the appeals.

(d) Seven Benches sit to dispose of miscellaneous matters on Mondays and on other days all the courts take up miscellaneous matters as well as regular matters. The number of Benches hearing regular matters has also been increased.

Rehabilitation of Malayalees repatriated from foreign countries

368. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for rehabilitating Malayalees repatriated from foreign countries; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to take any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) and (b) The Department of Rehabilitation is concerned with relief and rehabilitation of repatriates from Sri Lanka, Burma, Uganda, Mozambique, Zaire and Vietnam and displaced persons from Pakistan and former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and also Tibetan refugees. By and large schemes are being implemented for this purpose irrespective of any categorisation of repatriates/refugees on linguistic or regional basis.

Silent Valley Project

369. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased

to refer to the Unstarred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th January, 1980 and state:

(a) whether any discussions with the State Government of Kerala have been held with regard to the Silent Valley Project; if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(b) when was the project initially cleared by the Planning Commission and whether any conditions were specified in clearing this project; if so, whether the Kerala Government fulfilled those conditions?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Silent Valley Hydro-electric Project envisaging three units of 40 MW (3x40 MW) was originally sanctioned in February, 1973. Subsequently, the installed capacity of the Project was changed to two units of 60 MW (2x60 MW) and the State authorities submitted the revised estimates in October, 1977. Meanwhile, environmentalists and ecologists raised doubts regarding preservation of flora and fauna in the Silent Valley in the event of execution of this project. Accordingly, the Department of Science & Technology constituted a Task Force to examine the environmental problems relating to this Project, which recommended that the Silent Valley Project should be abandoned and the area should be declared a biosphere. However, if, for any reasons it is not possible to abandon the Project, appropriate safeguards may be adopted for protecting the environment.

This was further examined by the National Committee on Environmental Planning & Coordination in the Department of Science and Technology, which recommended certain safeguards for protecting the environment in the