

Silent Valley Power Project

7. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked the Government of Kerala not to proceed with work on the Silent Valley Power Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) In view of reservations expressed by environmentalists and ecologists all over the world regarding destruction of the Silent Valley forest, which is one of the only remaining tropical rain forests in the world, the Government of Kerala has been requested to stop further work till the matter is discussed with the State Government

Booth capturing incidents

8. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of booth capturing that have been reported throughout the country, State-wise, during the recent Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for putting an end to this evil practice in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) According to the information furnished by the Election Commission, a total of 58 incidents in the nature of booth capturing was reported in connection with the recently concluded General Election to the Lok Sabha. The State-

wise break up of these incidents is given below:—

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 6 |
| Bihar | 38 |
| U.P. | 14 |
| TOTAL: | 58 |

(b) The Election Commission is convening a meeting of all the Chief Electoral Officers at New Delhi on the 1st of February, 1980, to consider the steps to be taken for the removal of difficulties and bottlenecks in the holding of free and fair elections which were noticed during the recently held General Election to the Lok Sabha, including steps to be taken to put an end to the evil of booth capturing.

Expenditure incurred for holding on elections to the 7th Lok Sabha

9. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the total expenditure incurred for holding on elections to the 7th Lok Sabha and the amount of money spent by each candidate in the election campaign in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The expenditure of the Government on the recently held General Election to the Lok Sabha is estimated at Rs. 52.20 crores. As regards money spent by candidates, under section 78 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the contesting candidates are allowed a period of 30 days from the date of declaration of results for filing the returns of their election expenses.