

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post of Director, Botanical Survey of India has been lying vacant since November, 1973. All efforts made so far to fill the post have not succeeded. The first advertisement for the post was issued by the UPSC in September, 1973, even before the post fell vacant. A University Professor was selected and the UPSC, keeping in view the high responsibility attached to the post and dearth of suitably qualified persons, recommended the maximum of the scale, namely, Rs. 2500/ as pay. Even this pay was not acceptable to the candidate. The post was again advertised by the UPSC in June, 1976. But none of the candidates was found suitable by the Commission. The UPSC recommended that the scale of pay of this post be revised to Rs. 2500—3000. This recommendation of the UPSC has since been accepted by Government and the post of Director, Botanical Survey of India in the revised scale has again been advertised by the UPSC in September, 1977.

(c) and (37 Departmental candidates with requisite qualifications are also considered if they apply for the post in response to advertisement of the UPSC.

(e) Advertisement for the post was issued by UPSC in September, 1977. The process of selection is likely to take another two to three months.

Defence Minister's statement regarding atrocities on Harijans

711. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement reported to have been made by the Defence Minister at Chandigarh on the 11th September, 1977 to the effect that the incidents of atrocities on Harijans were on the increase; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Government have seen certain newspaper reports to this effect.

(b) Offences against Members of scheduled castes such as murder, rape, grievous hurt, serious mischief or arson in respect of their property etc. are punishable under the law and this comes within the definition of "Public Order" which is a State subject, according to Schedule VII of the Constitution of India. Substantive action under the law in such cases has to be taken by the State/UT Governments concerned. However, the Centre keeps in close touch with them in this matter. Various suggestions have been sent to them from time to time to expedite measures aimed at removing the basic factors responsible for such incidents and for strengthening the administrative machinery to ensure prompt and effective action in such cases, and to provide protection to and instil a sense of security among the weaker sections.

Delay in the appointment of the Civil Rights Commission

712. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL; SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI: SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL
urf PIARE LALL TALIB;
 SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
 KHAN: SHRI IBRAHIM
 KALANIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to the Starred Question 105 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1977 and state the reasons for the delay in appointing the Civil Rights Commission and by when the Commission is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): Some suggestions and representations have been received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other representatives of Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes. All these have to be duly considered by the Government before finalising the Constitution and the terms of reference of the Civil Rights Commission.

Accounts of political parties

713. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked for and verified the accounts of the political parties in the country and sources of the contributions received by them; and

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

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation are however understood to have asked for the accounts of All India Congress Committee for the period January to April 77 in connection with the investigation of case No. RC 9/77-FS(I) registered against Smt. Indira Gandhi and 6 others relating to the alleged obtaining of jeeps from some Industrial houses/companies etc. for utilisation for Congress Party's Election purposes. The accounts of the Congress Party are also relevant to two other cases registered by the CBI, namely (i) RC 8/77.FSI against S/Shri R. K. Dhawan, K. L. Dhawan, P. C. Sethi and others relating to alleged abuse of office by certain public servants in securing contributions to the funds of the Congress Party from companies, firms and businessmen and subsequent misconduct of some of these public servants in utilising the funds so collected for the purpose of their own benami firms, and (ii) Case R.C. 5/77-FSI registered by the CBI against Sarvashri P. C. Sethi, D. P. Chatto. padhyaya, K. D. Malaviya etc. relating to alleged abuse of office by certain public servants in collecting contributions from companies in the guise of taking advertisements in souvenirs.

Case's against political workers

714. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA NARAYANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have instituted cases against some political workers during August-September, 1977; and

(b) if so, what are the charges brought against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered one case RC 8/77-FSI during the relevant period against S/Shri P. C. Sethi and Yash Pal Kapoor M.P. amongst others. The case relates to the alleged abuse of office in securing contributions to the funds of a political party from companies, firms and businessmen and subsequent utilisation of those funds for purposes of some benami firms. Further investigation is in progress.

Increase in the price of paper

715. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of different varieties of paper have gone up; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to check the price rise and urged upon the main paper manufacturers to maintain the price level prevailing at the beginning of the year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There has been no significant increase in the prices of basic qualities of paper, but only a marginal increase in some superior varieties of paper mainly because of increase in the cost of rags which form the main raw material of these papers. The price of white printing paper which is the only controlled variety has been maintained at Rs. 2750/- per tonne.