

York with M/s. Haldia Investment Company Limited, a company belonging to the Goenkas of the Duncan Brothers, for the sale of 51 per cent shares held by it in the Remington Rand of India Ltd. to the following five companies:

1. Haldia Investment Company Ltd.
2. Globe Tea and Industries Ltd.
3. Off-Shore India Ltd.
4. Jaipur Investment Company Ltd.
5. New India Investment Corporation Ltd.

Sperry Rand Corporation of USA had given an intimation as required under the provisions of Section 108B of the Companies Act for the transfer of shares held by it in Remington Rand of India Ltd. to the five companies which has been rejected being not in public interest. The Reserve Bank of India has also not agreed to the proposal of Sperry Rand Corporation for the transfer of the shares and has asked Remington Rand of India Ltd. to submit fresh proposals in this regard by 31st December, 1977.

Conference of Chief Electoral Officers

528. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Electoral Officers was convened by the Election Commission towards the end of September, 1977; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the conference and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations made at the conference are as under:

- (1) The electoral rolls for Assembly Constituencies should be revised

every alternate year. The qualifying date which is now 1st January of the year in which the electoral rolls are prepared or revised should be changed to 1st October of that year. A supplementary list of voters who would attain the qualifying age on the 1st January of the next year should also be prepared at the same time. There should be no fee for applications for inclusion of names in electoral rolls or for appeals against rejection of applications for inclusion of names.

(2) The system of issuing identity cards to all electors should be tried in one or two urban constituencies on an experimental basis as a method of avoiding impersonation of voters at the time of poll. The identity cards may be issued family-wise and without photographs. The problems relating to cost, printing etc. should be studied in the first instance.

(3) The procedure prescribed for preparation of electoral rolls for Local Authorities Constituencies should be revised.

(4) The superintendence, direction and control of elections to local bodies specified in Fourth Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 should vest in the Election Commission.

(5) The optimum number of voters attached to a polling station should be reduced from 900 to 750 and the maximum number of voters assigned to any polling station should be reduced from 1200 to 1000.

(6) The system of obtaining signature/thumb impression of an elector on the counterfoil of the ballot paper before issue of ballot paper to him should be re-introduced.

(7) There should be no reduction in the interval between the last date for withdrawal of candidatures and the first day of poll from the present minimum limit of 20 days.

(8) The maximum limit of 3 days polling in any State which was adhered to at the time of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections held this year should be adhered to in future also.

(9) All political parties—recognised and registered—should hereafter strictly follow in letter and spirit the procedure prescribed in para 13 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) order 1968.

(10) An educational film for imparting training to the Presiding and Polling Officers in regard to duties performed by them at the polling stations should be suggested for production in the next financial year.

(11) The provisions of section 160(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 regarding requisitioning of vehicles, etc. for election purposes should be made directory, in nature instead of it being mandatory. Alternatively the maximum number of vehicles which might be used by candidates for electioneering purposes could be fixed under the said section.

(12) Section 134 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 may be amended so as to make election duties compulsory for Government servants.

(13) Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 may be amended—

(i) To prohibit processions, and padyatras also on the day preceding the day of poll and on the day of poll; and

(ii) The period during which electioneering should be stopped should be increased to 48 hours reckoned backwards from the hour fixed for the commencement of the poll.

(14) The Gazetted Officers who have to perform duties of District

Election Officers/Returning Officers/ Assistant Returning Officers etc should be paid special pay or the extra work that they have to perform in these capacities.

Such of the recommendations made at the Conference which would require amendment of the election law for their implementation are being examined. The Election Commission have issued necessary executive instructions in respect of the remaining recommendations which could be implemented by the issue of such instructions.

Construction and Conversion of Railway lines in Karnataka

529. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress so far made in regard to be:

(i) construction of Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam-Coimbatore railway line;

(ii) conversion of Bangalore-Miraj metre gauge into a broad gauge one; and

(iii) construction of a ring railway around Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (i) Chama-ajanagar - Satyamanaglam-Coimbatore new line—The project is not under consideration on account of shortage of resources.

(ii) Bangalore-Miraj conversion— Surveys for the conversion of Miraj-Londa, Hospet-Murmagao and Alnaver-Dandeli sections has been completed. In view of the limited financial resources, it is proposed to take up the project at present. There is no proposal for the conversion of Hubli-Bangalore section.

(iii) Ring Railway around Bangalore— There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Railways at present.