

DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Sir, I think I have answered this question. Some of the State Governments have expressed favourable opinion in this behalf and some of the State Governments have stated that reducing the voting age is not a desirable thing.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : How is it that the State Governments come into the picture ? The Representation of the People Act has been enacted by Parliament.

12 NOON

DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI: This was one of the points that was suggested by the Joint Committee on Electoral Reforms.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: That was in respect of the expenditure to be borne by the Ministry.

DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI : This was one of the points, I told you, suggested; it is there, and then the whole thing was referred to the State Governments and they have expressed by and by their opinion. That is why I am telling that some people are in favour of this and some are against but when the Government is considering all the pros and cons in this matter, the physical difficulty has come in the way and also other repercussions have to be taken into consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I would like to know how the Chief Ministers come in our way. Are they experts on youth or what ? Is the hon. Minister aware that all over the country there is a very strong public opinion and demand that the youth below 21, i.e. between the ages 18 and 21, should be given right of franchise in the interest of strengthening democracy and also involving them in the participation of democratic process ? May I know why the Government is not taking a decision, keeping in view the changing times that this demand should be accepted ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

C.B.I. Enquiry Against the Employees of the O. N. G. C.

*125. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRI N. S. TALIB :
SHRI S. A. HASHMI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the employees of Natural Gas and Oil Commission against whom CBI is making enquiries;

(b) the time since when CBI was asked to investigate into these cases; and

(c) the charges which are being investigated against each employee and the findings of the enquiry so far ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) C.B.I. is making enquiries/investigations against twelve employees of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. It will not be in the public interest to disclose their names at this stage. Except in one case where CBI consulted ONGC before taking up investigation in January, 1975, all other cases are being enquired into or investigated by CBI *suo-moto*. These cases have been under investigation/enquiry from 27th March, 1974 onwards.

(c) The allegations relate to wrongful claim of House Rent Allowance, showing false consumption of HSD/POL etc. in departmental vehicles, misappropriation of HSD, false claim of transfer T.A., showing favour in purchase of furniture and other material and wrongful disposal of stores, etc. Since the cases are at various stages of investigation/enquiry it is not possible to give the findings.

Expansion of Workshops at Mysore and Hubli

*126. SHRI B. RACHAIAH :
SHRI BALRAM DAS :
SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the expansion of Railway Workshops at Mysore and Hubli in Karnataka State; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.