

up the cost. All these have led to a stage where some of the projects had to suffer for want of finance.

All these things have got to be very carefully considered and analysed which has not been done.

DR BHAI MAHAVIR: That means you admit that our planning is not realistic and it is like building castles in the air.

Non-submission of returns of election expenses

*654 SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state—

(a) the number of candidates (Party-wise) who contested the 1st general elections for Lok Sabha and have not so far submitted returns of their election expenses; and

(b) the action taken by Government against such candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY): (a) One candidate each of the Indian National Congress (O), C.P.I., Bharatiya Janata Sangh, P.S.P., Vishal Haryana Party, Forward Block of India, and Muslim Majlis, and two each from C.P.M., Bhartiya Kranti Dal and Republican Party of India, and 76 Independents, that is 89 in all, who contested the last General Elections to the Lok Sabha have not lodged the account of their election expenses within the time and in the manner required by law.

(b) Out of the 89 candidates, 53 candidates have been disqualified under section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and action against 35 candidates is pending as further opportunities have been given to them to lodge their accounts. One candidate has died.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: There is no mention of any Ruling Congress candidate not complying with the election rules. I presume there was none.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the names are not there, it means there is none. Why

do you go on repeating it and unnecessarily taking the time of the House?

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: I have no supplementary.

श्री राम सहाय: क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि जिन लोगों ने एलेक्शन एक्सपेंसेज के रिटर्न्स गलत दिये उनको किसी एक कैटेगरी में निकाल कर के क्या किसी दूसरी कैटेगरी में ले जाना का विचार था। अगर ऐसा विचार था, तो उसके बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की गई।

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी: मैं समझता हूँ कि जो यह मामला ज्वाइंट कमेटी के सामने था उसके बारे में माननीय सदस्य का इशारा है। ज्वाइंट कमेटी ने इस बात पर विचार किया था और ज्वाइंट कमेटी ने इस के लिए एक स्पेशल सबकमेटी भी बनाई थी। उस सबकमेटी में विचार कर के जो उसने सिफारिश की है उसके अनुसार यह हिसाब देने के मामले में कोई परिवर्तन की उनकी राय नहीं है। ज्वाइंट कमेटी की ऐसी राय है कि इसमें जो पद्धति अभी है वही रहनी चाहिये और उसमें कोई परिवर्तन नहीं होना चाहिये।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: In view of the Election Commission's public statements that there is hardly a case where the election returns submitted by candidates, whether defeated or successful candidates, are truthful statements, does the Government feel that there is any necessity for submitting these returns which are in all cases according to the Election Commission fictitious?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: That is one side of the case. The other relates to the maintenance of provision dealing with submission of election returns. They have very cogent reasons to support that. All these were considered by the Joint Committee considering election law.

and it had appointed a sub-committee. And, Sir, that sub-committee had recommended that the present provision should continue and the Joint Committee has accepted that recommendation.

MR CHAIRMAN: Next question

U.P. Electricity Board Stores

*655. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that stores worth Rs. 3 to 4 crores with the U.P. Electricity Board have been found obsolete

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the purchase of such stores and allowing them to become obsolete; and

(c) if so, the results of the inquiry and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) to (c) It is understood from the U.P. State Electricity Board that the annual stock verification in March, 1972 and subsequent additions of unserviceable goods during 1972-73 have indicated total disposal material worth Rs. 3.62 crores in their stores. The major proportion of this worth about Rs. 3.2 crores is copper conductors released after replacement of copper wires by ACSR conductors in view of the frequent thefts of copper wires. All the unserviceable goods are being disposed of and sale orders for disposal of most of the stores are already issued.

In view of the above, no inquiry has been considered necessary by the U.P. State Electricity Board.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Sir, the logic behind what is stated in the last para in the statement, that is, that "in view of the above no inquiry has been considered

necessary by the U.P. State Electricity Board", is not quite clear. Sir, the Chairman of the U.P. State Electricity Board himself says that stores worth four crores of rupees—he has said this in a public statement—are obsolete and out of date. Is it not necessary for the Government to institute an inquiry and find out how exactly those stores were purchased in the first place and when they were purchased why no due care was taken to foresee the requirements of the Electricity Board and to see that such stores were not purchased which would become obsolete in a very short time? And, Sir, when they purchased them, how long did they take to declare them obsolete? What was the time-lag? These are all the pertinent questions which must be made the subject-matter of the inquiry? Therefore, I would like to know what the reasons are for the Government for not instituting an inquiry into this matter.

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, the material that has now become surplus or unserviceable is the copper, copper wires, worth about Rs. 3.2 crores or so. This is purely on account of copper. What they have done is that they were using copper conductors before. But they were being stolen by the people and then they replaced the copper wires with aluminium conductors with the result that this copper material has been put in the stores and this is the one which is the main item. It is not a question of the copper becoming obsolete, but it is a question of trying to sell it. If we then come to the question of its cost and other things, this was purchased many years ago and at the time of the purchase the price was low and now the price is much higher and this is going to bring really profits to the board that is to say, the copper is going to bring profits. The other things are steel scraps and drums for the transformer oil and so on. But the main bulk of it is pure copper that was being used for conductors and what they are going to do is that they are going to dispose of it through bidding and then give it to the highest bidder.

MR CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mohta, your next question.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Sir, in the main question of mine I have asked what the