

That is No. 1. No. 2 is, as the Government itself is going in for production of tractors, is the Government aware of the fact that such a price increase is necessary or are they themselves asking for more price ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :
As I have just now made it clear, this matter has been referred to a Committee and after getting the Report of the Committee we will take a decision.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : What is their demand? How much have they asked for?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :
This demand differs from company to company, from manufacturer to manufacturer. They have been raising prices that sometimes because wages have increased, sometimes prices have increased or certain other things have increased. We have referred this matter to a Committee which will go into the whole question.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
The Committee had been sitting for three years and no Report has come out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought you were merely interrupting.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
Is it a fact that the Enquiry Committee is sitting for the past 2 years?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you had indicated I would have called you. You did not raise your hands.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Is it necessary to raise my hand always? We are not sitting in a class that anyone who wants to ask should raise his hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How do I know that you want to put a question? Either you stand up or you make some indication but you just stand up and start putting the question. That was not according to the practice. I allow you but in the future I will request you to give some indication that you want to put a question as all other Members are doing. If you do not stand, you just raise your hand or do something.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :
In reply to another supplementary I had stated that we may get this report even this month.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : For how long has it been sittings?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD :
I had said that this committee was appointed in September 1970.

चण्डीगढ़ में मत पत्रों का बरामद होना

*439. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री लाल आडवाणी : †

क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चण्डीगढ़ में बहुत बड़ी संख्या में बरामद हुए मतपत्रों के विषय में की गई जांच के परिणामों का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि रट्टी कागज के ठेकेदार द्वारा वहां से मध्य प्रदेश के एक कागज के कारखाने को भेजी गयी रट्टी में इस प्रकार के मत पत्र थे ; और

(ग) यदि हां तो इस सम्बन्ध में तथ्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

‡[RECOVERY OF BALLOT PAPERS AT CHANDIGARH

*439. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI :

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE/ विधि और न्याय मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the outcome of the enquiry held into the recovery of a large number of ballot papers at Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that waste paper despatched by the waste paper contractor from there to a paper mill in Madhya Pradesh consisted of such ballot papers; and

(c) if so, what are the detailed facts in this regard?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी) : (क) से (ग) चण्डीगढ़ में मिले फालतू मत पत्रों के बारे में की गई जांच के परिणामों के विषय में एक वक्तव्य, सर्वश्री एन० आर० मुनिस्वामी और

†The question was actually asked on the flower of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.

‡[] English translation.

अन्य सदस्यों द्वारा ध्यानार्कषण सूचना के जवाब में 31 मार्च, 1971 को सदन में पहले ही दिया जा चुका है। 26-3-71 को चण्डीगढ़ में उपनिर्वाचन आयुक्त (श्री पी० आई० जैकब) द्वारा जांच के समय यह कहा गया कि कुछ रद्दों का गज, जिनमें मत पत्रों के सम्मिलित होने का संदेह किया जाता है, दो रेल वैननों में लादकर चण्डीगढ़ से भोपाल के निकट मण्डा दीप पेपर मिल्स, सोहारा, को भेजा गया था और यह प्रार्थना की गई थी कि इन वैननों को बीच में ही रोक लिया जाय और इस को जांच करी जाए। तदनुसार वैनन चण्डीगढ़ को लौटा दिए गए, उन्हें खोला गया और उनके अंदर बंद सामान का निरीक्षण श्री श्रीचन्द गोयल भूतपूर्व संसद सदस्य, श्री हित अबल, श्री महं मंत्री पंजाब जनसभ, श्री के० एल० मनचदा, महा-मंत्री, जनसभ चण्डीगढ़ और श्री शम लाल गुप्त, अध्यक्ष, टेरिटोरियल कांग्रेस चण्डीगढ़ तथा अन्य व्यक्तियों की उपस्थिति में 13-5-71 को किया गया। निरीक्षण के फलस्वरूप दोनों वैननों में, छह विभिन्न संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के केवल 354 सम्पूर्ण मतपत्र मिले। इनमें से केवल कुछ ही ऐसे थे जो संख्यांकित थे। इन 354 मतपत्रों के अतिरिक्त दोनों वैननों में मतपत्रों की 813.45 किलोग्राम कतरने (अर्थात् मतपत्र जिनके काट काट कर छोटे छोटे टुकड़े कर दिए गए थे) भी मिलीं। ये सब मतपत्र और कतरने चण्डीगढ़ में निर्यात रक्षा के कंट्रोल रूम में सुरक्षित अभिरक्षा में रख दी गई हैं और मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी चण्डीगढ़ तथा जनसभ पट्टी को मुद्राएं लगी दी गई हैं।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) to (c) A statement on the results of the enquiry conducted into the surplus ballot papers found in Chandigarh, has already been made in the House on 31-3-1971 in reply to a Calling

Attention Notice by S/Shri N. R. Muniswamy and others. At the time of the enquiry by the Deputy Election Commissioner (Shri P. I. Jacob) at Chandigarh on 26-3-71, it was alleged that some waste papers suspected to include ballot papers had been despatched from Chandigarh to Mandi Deep Paper Mills, Sehore, near Bhopal, by two railway wagons and a request was made that these wagons should be intercepted and examined. Accordingly, the wagons were redirected to Chandigarh, opened and their contents inspected on 13-5-71 in the presence of Shri Sri Chand Goel, Ex-M.P., Shri Hit Ablashi, General Secretary, Punjab Jan Sangh, and Shri K. L. Manchanda, General Secretary, Jan Sangh, Chandigarh, and Sham Lal Gupta, President, Territorial Congress, Chandigarh, and others. As a result of the inspection, only 354 whole ballot papers of six different parliamentary constituencies were found in the two wagons. Only some of these ballot papers were numbered. Besides these 354 ballot papers, 813.45 kilograms of ballot papers cuttings (i.e. ballot papers cut into small pieces) were also found in the two wagons. All these ballot papers and cuttings are stored in safe custody in the Civil Defence Control Room at Chandigarh under the seals of the Chief Electoral Officer, Chandigarh and the Jan Sangh Party.]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : This is a scandal of very serious dimensions and I expected some clear reply. I would like to know specifically whether in respect of the two wagons that were sent to Sehore and which were brought back to Chandigarh and which the Minister said were inspected as to if it is true that their R.Rs. showed that there were 140 bales in each wagon, but that on examination it was found that the seals were broken and that in one of the wagons 20 bales were missing? This is my first question.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : The wagons were moved from Chandigarh to Sehore. On receiving the complaint by the Collector Sehore that the wagons may be intercepted, the Collector intercepted the wagons and the seal on the wagons when they were intercepted at Sehore were those of the Railway Protection Force and they were sent back to Chandigarh. On reaching Chandigarh they were opened and the contents were found to be in order. No shortage was found.

†[] English translation.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Is it not true that 20 bales were missing from one of the wagons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that there was no shortage.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, my specific question is this. Is it not true that 20 bales were found missing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it correct to say that 20 bales were missing?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: So far as my information goes, that is not correct. However, I shall further verify this fact and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, this is a question which has been agitating the public mind and when such a matter is raised the Minister should have come here fully informed. This question has been there for two months now and he comes and tells the House that he will find out and let us know. I know about this because our Members were present there and it was found that 20 bales were missing. And when I put this to the Minister he comes and tells us that he will find out.

Sir, my second question is this. In the case of ballot papers I presume that the Election Commission issues specific directions to all the State Governments and to all the presses as to how many surplus ballot papers are to be printed. I want to know what these directions are. If there are specific directions on this subject can they be laid on the Table of the House unless we are apprised of the whole situation we can never understand how this sort of thing can happen that lakhs and lakhs of surplus ballot papers are printed and sent to different places. Sir, I want to know whether there are any specific written instructions as to how many surplus ballot papers are to be printed for each constituency. In this particular case 16 lakh ballot papers are reported to have been printed in surplus. This is something unexplainable. What is the explanation that the Government has got for this?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: The ballot papers are printed up to the next tens; if the number required is 3221 then 3230 are printed. That is the normal practice and these were the instructions that were issued

by the Election Commission to the Chief Electoral Officers for the printing of ballot papers.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: How do you explain these lakhs of ballot papers?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: I will explain. In Chandigarh ballot papers were printed for the various constituencies. In one block were Hissar, Mohindergarh and Ambala constituencies; another block was for Sangrur, Amritsar, Phillaur and Rupar; the third was for Fazilka, Bhatinda and Ludhiana and the fourth was for Rohtak and Karnal. In the first group the maximum number required for one constituency was 5,33,700 and so for the other two constituencies also the same number was printed. Similarly in the other block 5,25,100 ballot papers were required for Rupar and so for others also the same number was printed. In the third block 5,98,200 ballot papers were printed for Ludhiana and the same number was printed for the other two also. In the fourth block for Rohtak we wanted 5,04,700 and for Karnal also the same number was printed.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, he is trying to tire out the House by giving needless and irrelevant information. My question is how many surplus ballot papers were printed. You must have got the total figure.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: I have given the exact number.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: What is the total of the surplus ballot papers printed?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: For which constituency?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: For the entire Punjab and Haryana for whatever constituencies ballot papers were printed in Chandigarh.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: The total number of ballot papers required for the 23 constituencies in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh was 1,18,61,800.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : प्रिन्ट कितने हुए ?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY: The actual number printed was 1,21,14,431. Thus the surplus was 2,52,631 which is less than 2 per cent.

SHRI B. K. KAUL : When such a hue and cry is being raised against this particular matter I want to know why the Government is not coming out with complete information giving what has actually happened and what drawbacks there have been.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : May I intervene, Sir? On this precise question a full and lengthy statement was made before this House in the previous Session. I am not objecting, of course, to the question being asked again, but there is nothing which is incomplete in the information given.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : What is this...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish, please. Let him complete the answer. I will call you. Please sit down.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : There is nothing incomplete in the information given for the simple reason that, first of all, my colleague gave constituency-wise the actual number of ballot-papers printed. The first question was why the excess ballot-papers had at all to be printed. The second question was: What is the number of excess ballot-papers printed so far as Punjab is concerned? These are the two parts of the question. Now, with regard to the first part, the answer given by my colleague was this. When ballot-papers are printed, they are printed in one form in respect of more than one constituency. Thus, for example, for the three constituencies Hissar, Mohindergarh and Ambala, there was one form used for the purpose of printing. Now, you will find that in respect of Hissar the total number of ballot-papers printed was 5,14,500. In respect of Mohindergarh it was 5,33,700 and in respect of Ambala it was 4,92,000. Since the form used was only one, the largest number of ballot-papers required for one particular constituency in that group was obviously printed for all the constituencies. Thus, in this group although Hissar required only 5,14,000, they printed 5,36,000 which was the maximum required for the Mohindergarh constituency in that group. This is in reply to the first part of the question. The second is with regard to the total position. So far as Punjab is concerned, there are 23 constituencies. In Punjab for all the 23 constituencies the total number of ballot-papers required was 1,18,61,800, while the actual number printed was

1,21,14,431 which would show that the excess number of ballot-papers printed was 2,52,631 for all the 23 constituencies in Punjab. Now, this works out to an excess of less than 2 per cent, whereas in actual practice and as allowed by the Commission so far all these years, it is an excess up to 5 per cent. Here I must say it is much less than the actual excess allowed for all the constituencies.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : सबसे पहले तो मैं यह निवेदन कर दूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी का सम्पूर्ण दक्तव्य भ्रमात्मक है। मैं स्वयं वहाँ पर उपस्थित था। जिस समय यह पता लगा कि चंडीगढ़ में इस प्रकार के बैलेट पेपर मिले सबसे पहले मैंने मिस्टर जैकब से टेलिफोन पर बात की। मिस्टर जैकब ने जवाब दिया—
“We do not allow excess printing.”
उस समय उन्होंने कहा कि हम एक्सेस प्रिंटिंग एलाउ नहीं करते। जब चंडीगढ़ में बैलेट पेपर पकड़े गए, उनको दिखाया गया, उनके सामने हजारों की तादाद में बैलेट पेपर मौजूद थे, मैं उपस्थित था, मिस्टर मधोक भी मौजूद थे, उस समय उन्होंने एडमिट किया कि हम कुछ परसेट एक्सेस प्रिंटिंग एलाउ करते हैं। तो इस सम्बन्ध में मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एक्सेस प्रिंटिंग होती है और जो वच जाते हैं उसके लिए आपके यहाँ किस प्रकार का नियम है, क्या वे डेस्ट्रॉय कर दिए जाते हैं या वे रद्दी में बेचे जाते हैं? जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है, उनको वहीं पर डेस्ट्रॉय कर दिया जाता है, वे रद्दी वाले को नहीं बेचे जाते। वे रद्दी वाले को बेचे गए कितनी तादाद में? वे सोहीर को भेजे गए लाखों की तादादों में। गवर्नमेंट गोडाउन में मिस्टर जैकब को दिखाए गए कि बोरे के बोरे भरे पड़े हैं। हमारे यहाँ से जाने से पहले सोहीर के लिए बैगन लद चुके थे। आप अनदाज लगाइए कि उन बैगनों—कितने बैलेट पेपर गए होंगे। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार नियम-विरुद्ध काम करने वालों के खिलाफ आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है, जिन्होंने वजाय डेस्ट्रॉय करने के बैलेट पेपर रद्दी वाले को बेच दिए? एक बात।

दूसरी बात यह कि सीहोर से जो बैगन वापस आ गए उनके बारे में हमारी जानकारी है कि सीहोर जाते जाते उनकी मुहर टूट गई थी, उसके बाद टूटी मुहर को दुबारा लगा कर डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट ने भेजा है, रास्ते में बैलट पेपर गड़बड़ कर दिए गए ।

श्री नोतिराज सिंह चौधरी : पहले प्रश्न का उत्तर है कि होम सेक्रेटरी, पंजाब शासन इन्फ़ोवायरी कर रहे हैं, तीन आदमियों के खिलाफ चार्जशीट बनाई गई है, उनको चार्जशीट दे दी गई है और उनको उत्तर के लिए समय दिया गया है ।

दूसरे प्रश्न का उत्तर है कि मुहर टूटी नहीं थी और कलेक्टर, सीहोर ने बैगन पर अपनी, मुहर लगाकर चंडीगढ़ को वापस भेजा ।

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : अध्यक्ष महोदय उत्तर नहीं आया, डेस्ट्रॉय करने के क्या नियम हैं ?

श्री नोतिराज सिंह चौधरी : जो ज्यादा बचते हैं उनके लिए आदेश यह है कि उनको डेस्ट्रॉय कर दिया जाय, जला दिया जाय, बर्बाद कर दिया जाय, और इसी आदेश की अवहेलना के फलस्वरूप यह इन्फ़ोवायरी चालू है ।

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUP-TA : May I know whether it is the practice to print one ballot paper for each voter or more than one? I am not concerned with 5 per cent or 2 per cent excess. I am not concerned with that. That is my specific question, whether it is the practice to print one ballot paper for one voter or to have duplication or triplication of it. That is my first question. My second question is this. We have now seen, it is a fact, that there was some excess ballot papers found in Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh. May I know whether there was any such excess ballot paper for any other State also? My third question is whether those excess ballot papers are meant to be or have been smuggled into the ballot boxes in favour of any political party?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAU-DHURY : Only one ballot paper was printed for each voter, not more than

one. Secondly, as I said, this report has come only from Chandigarh and from nowhere else throughout the country. The third supplementary does not arise from the question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the main charge of Mr. Madhok and my friends is about the chemical treatment of the ballot papers, whether the ballot papers which had been found from that room or from the shed were in any way transformed and whether the stamps alleged to have been put on them appeared under particular conditions of humidity or not? If they did not appear, then the whole charge is false. May I know whether in the examination they have made of any ballot paper the chemical with which they are alleged to have put the stamp appeared in particular humidity conditions or not?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAU-DHURY : No ballot paper was found treated by any ink or anything of the sort. Mr. Madhok has made such allegations and he has also recently written a letter to the Minister of Law and Justice.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Was any impression found coming out after a certain period of time or not?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAU-DHURY : No.

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बताया था कि मैंने पहले अपना स्टेटमेंट दिया था । मैं उनको यह याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जिस प्रकार का एक्सप्रेशन दिया वैसा पहले भी दिया था कि चार या पांच लाख के करीब वोट्स हैं और उतने ही छपे जायेंगे । मैंने यहाँ पर फ़ीरोज़पुर कांस्टिट्यूइंसी का एक बैलट पेपर आप को देकर यह पुछा था कि एक लाख कुछ हजार की संख्या छप कर कैसे आ गई जब कि वहाँ मतदाताओं की संख्या चार लाख से ज्यादा है । आपने उस वक़्त आश्वासन दिया था कि मैं इसको जांच करवा के बतलाऊंगा क्या आज आप उसका उत्तर देने को तैयार हैं चूँकि वरिष्ठ मंत्री महोदय ने यह बात कही थी इस लिए मैं चाहूँगा कि वे ही इसका उत्तर दें

दूसरा जो प्रश्न है उसके बारे में जानना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने कृष्णकान्त जी के उत्तर में कहा है कि उसने इसकी जांच करा ली। जब बैलट पेपर्स वाक्सेज में बन्द थे तो आपने उनका स्याहां के बारे में जांच कैसे करा ली, क्या आप यह स्पष्ट करेंगे।

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : पहला प्रश्न यह है कि बोच का नम्बर कैसे हुआ। जो बैलट का फर्मा होता है उसपर एक हाई टाइप नम्बरिंग मशीन लगाई जाती है जिस से बैलट पेपर्स पर नम्बर छापे जाते हैं। कभी कभी यह मशीन अटक जाती है और एक ही नम्बर बहुत से बैलट पेपर्स पर छपता चला जाता है। इस तरह से एक ही नम्बर एक नहीं अनेक बैलट पेपर्स पर छप जाता है।

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : कृष्णकान्त जी ने पूछा कि जांच कराया तो मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया कि हां, जांच करा ली है। तो जब वे बैलट वास्केमें बंद थे तो आप ने जांच कैसे करा ली।

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : उन में कुछ कटिंग और 458 खूले बैलट पेपर्स आये थे, उन की जांच करने से यह पता चला है।

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Sir, this is about printing of excess ballot papers. But I am concerned with the disposal of the excess ballot papers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any specific rule is framed for fixing a time-limit for the disposal of those excess ballot papers. If it does not come under any rule, what action has been taken against the person who is responsible for the quick disposal of those excess ballot papers to the waste paper contractor?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : The directions of the Election Commission were that as soon as the excess is determined they should be burnt and the Controller of Printing was directed in that way. The Controller of Printing failed to comply with the direction and therefore an enquiry had been started and against that, three persons have been charged, as I stated earlier.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : My only anxiety is that so far as the elections are concerned, Caesar's wife must be above all suspicion. This has been a scandal which has disgraced the whole country. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question before you comment.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : I expected that from you. My only question is that instead of creating all sorts of trouble here every month and in every session, why the Government does not immediately institute that inquiry as to in how many other States also such incidents have happened. I may also say that in Gujarat also there have been such complaints.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is not about it.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : My question is whether the Government is prepared to institute a full inquiry into the matter.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : At least now.

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : No complaints have been received from any place other than Chandigarh, and so far as Chandigarh is concerned, the inquiry is already proceeding.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Thengari. Last question, please. We have already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI D. THENGARI : There is one specific point of variance. That is, the hon. Minister said that the number of surplus ballot papers printed was round about two lakhs while, according to first-hand information of some of our Members, the number is not less than 15 lakhs. Will the Government arrange for an independent inquiry, investigation, into this affair?

SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : Sir, the matter has already been ascertained and enquired into, and the excess number printed is 2,52,000. Government does not propose to do anything else.