THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/ रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्र; (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The annual out-turn of wagons in the country during the last three years was as under :—

(Figures in terms of 4-wheelers)

Year	Annual out-turn (excluding export)
1968-69	16476
1969-70	11918.5
1970-71	11125

(b) Procurement of wagons for Indian Railways is programmed to cor-respond with the anticipated traffic fore-cast during the Five Year Plan period. Annual programming is phased to even out production load and is not connect-ed to any fixed demand as such in any particular year.

Export of wagons has mainly been through the State Trading Corporation which works under the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The figures of export of wagons dur-ing the last three years as obtained from that Ministry are :—

Year	Quantity
1968-69	1407
1969-70	24
1970-71	108*

*Excludes shipment of about 200 wagons in knocked down condition as part of 1000 wagon order from Hun-gary.

†PENDING CASES IN THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

*258. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE/ विधि और न्याय मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the largest number of cases in the country is pend-ing in the Calcutta High Court; if so, the number of cases pending till April 1971 ; and

(b) the details of the steps taken so far to improve the functioning of the Calcutta High Court ?

†Transferred from the 3rd June, 1971.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE/ विधि और न्याय मंत्री (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The number of cases pending in the Calcutta High Court on 1st January, 1971 was 75,733. Information regarding pen-dency till April 1971 is not readily available.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In December 1967 the State authori-ties were advised to take the following measures for the speedy disposal of cases : —

(i) The judge strength should be in-creased to the extent necessary tak-ing into account the institutions and disposals and volume of case-arrears pending disposal.

(ii) The vacancies in the High Court should be filled without delay.

(iii) Whenever a serving Judge is diverted to other duties and is not likely to come back to the High Court within six months, an Additio-nal or *ad-hoc* Judge should be ap-pointed in his place so that the work in the High Court does not suffer.

Consequently, the Judge strength of the Calcutta High Court has been in-creased from 32 to 39 during the last three years. Nine posts of Additional Judge have also been converted into posts of permanent Judge.

A Committee under the Chairman-ship of a former Chief Justice of India has been appointed to go into the pro-blem of arrears in the High Court and to suggest other remedial measures. The Committee is also expected to suggest such changes in the legal procedures as may be necessary for the speedy dis-posal of cases. Further steps to reduce the arrears in the High Courts, includ-ing the Calcutta High Court, will be taken in the light of the recommenda-tions of the Committee.

The Law Commission has suggested certain specific amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in its Twenty-Seventh Report with a view to eliminating or minimising delays in civil litigation and thereby reducing costs. A Bill further to amend the Code to give effect to the amendments

suggested by the Law Commission is proposed to be introduced in Parliament.

The Law Commission has also made a number of recommendations for the amendment of procedural law in criminal matters. Most of them have been accepted by Government and a Bill for the revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure is now before a Select Committee of Parliament.

मध्यावधि चुनावों के दौरान मत-पत्र गिननें के तरीके में संशोधन

*453. श्री निरंजन वर्मा :

श्री लाल आडवाणी :

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर :

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

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत लोक सभा चुनावों के दौरान चुनाव आयुक्त ने मत-पत्र गिनने के तरीके में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन किया था ;

(ख) क्या ऐसा करने से पूर्व इस मामले में विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के विचार जानने के लिए कोई परिपत्र जारी किया गया था अथवा क्या उनसे परामर्श करने के लिए कोई बैठक बुलाई गई थी ;

(ग) किन-किन व्यक्तियों अथवा दलों ने मूलतः ऐसे संशोधन का सुझाव दिया और कौन-कौन से राजनीतिक दल इस संशोधन के विरुद्ध थे ;

(घ) क्या सरकार इस संशोधन को वापस लेने का विचार रखती है ;

(ङ) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में राजनीतिक दलों की बैठक बुलाने का विचार रखती है ; और

(च) यदि हां, तो उक्त बैठक के कब तक बुलाये जाने की संभावना है ?

†[MODIFICATION IN REGARD TO COUNTING OF BALLOT PAPERS DURING MID-TERM ELECTIONS

*453. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA :

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA : ˙

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commissioner made significant modification in the method of counting of ballot papers during the last Lok Sabha elections ;

(b) whether before doing so, any circular was issued to ascertain the views of various political parties in the matter or whether any meeting was called for consulting them ;

(c) the names of the persons of parties who initially suggested such a modification and the names of the political parties which were against this modification ;

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw this modification ;

(e) whether Government propose to call a meeting of political parties in this regard ; and

(f) if so, the time by when the said meeting is likely to be convened ?]

विधि और न्याय मंत्री (श्री एच० आर० गोखले) : (क) से (ग) निर्वाचन आयोग से प्राप्त सिफारिशों के आधार पर निर्वाचनों का संचालन नियम, 1961 में यथोचित संशोधन करके, गणना प्रक्रिया में परिवर्तन किए गए । नियमों के संशोधन के लिए इस प्रक्रार अंगीकृत प्रक्रिया, अभी तक अंगीकृत प्रक्रिया से किसी प्रकार भिन्न नहीं है और न निर्वाचनों के संचालन को शासित करने वाली विधि में कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था है कि राजनीतिक दलों से पहले परामर्श किए बिना नियमों में संशोधन नहीं किया जा सकता । निर्वाचन आयोग ने विचार किया

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†[ ] English translation.