

(c) and (d) As regards (i) above, the Railway Administration sent an interim reply on 11-8-70 and is examining the request for a meeting.

As regards (i), it has already been examined and it has not been possible to accept the same.

ELECTION EXPENSES

993. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GAN-
GULY :

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : SHRI
NIREN GHOSH : SHRI
MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI K. P.
SUBRAMANIA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Supreme Court judgement in the election case of Shri R. K. Birla to the effect that the law relating to election expenses and the relevant provisions by and large is ineffective in controlling election expenses; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGAI NATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has made a number of recommendations for amendments to the Election Law. These recommendations include amendments to the Chapter relating to election expenses with a view to make elections less expensive and also for eliminating the chances of the various corrupt practices. In compliance with the assurance given to Parliament, arrangements are under way for referring the question of amendments to Election Law to a Joint Committee of the Houses for examination and report. Any decision in this behalf would depend upon the outcome of the deliberations in that Committee.

DATA OF CLOSED MILLS IN WEST BENGAL

994. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : SHRI
NIREN GHOSH : SHRI
MONORANJAN ROY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of closed mills' the period of closure, and the number of workers involved in West Bengal as on the 13th October, 1970;

(b) what are the reasons for the closure of the mills.

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to reopen these closed mills;

(d) if so, the details of such steps taken and the results thereof; and

(e) if no steps have been taken by Government so far, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) The Government of West Bengal have informed that upto early June this year, the number of closed factories, during the preceding 34 years, was 165 involving 22,481 employees.

(b) The main reasons for the closure of Mills in West Bengal are (a) Uneconomic operation and continuing loss, (b) want of finances and of raw materials (c) strained labour management relations and (d) managerial inefficiency.

(c) and (d) Some of the various steps taken by the Government to reopen the closed mills are as follows :

(i) The Industrial Development Bank of India has constituted a regional committee at Calcutta for the Eastern Region to guide and advise the regional office for sanction of financial assistance. The regional office has been given powers to deal with requests for refinance or direct financial assistance up to Rs. 20 lakhs.

(ii) The IDBI would provide special technical/or financial assistance to cases sponsored by the banks or financial institution for such assistance.

(iii) The Industrial Development Bank is drafting a Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed industrial reconstruction corporation and is taking care of the various administrative arrangements and legal formalities.

(iv) In the cases where the period of closure is at least six months as on 1-8-70 and one of the main reasons of closure is financial difficulty the State Government have declared.