

(c) A National Philatelic Museum has been established to create interest in philately in the country particularly amongst school children. Publicity brochures are being sent to important philatelists and established philatelic societies. Twenty-one philatelic bureaux have been opened in the country where publicity material is available on Indian postage stamps for the information of the general public. A deposit account system has also been recently introduced so that advance orders can be received for new issues of postage stamps.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the Minister if it is a fact that Bhutan is earning a sizeable foreign exchange in philately as compared to India and if the figures are available, may I know why it is so. India is a big country and we have a tradition in stamps for a long time. Why are we lagging behind ? What steps are "being taken to make the quality of our stamps much better so that they can be more attractive to foreign countries also ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Madam, I must confess that it is a fact that Bhutan's foreign exchange earnings in this respect, so far as I know, are much better than our own foreign exchange earnings. Unfortunately our foreign exchange earnings from known sales are not much that we can think of. For instance, last year we could only earn about Rs. 51,000. The reasons are Manv. One of them is that our printing quality . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have answered that the printing machinery has to come.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes. The second reason is that we were not having any sustained philatelic policy. As a result of the seminar about which I have mentioned we have now evolved a sustained philatelic policy, and I suppose with the appointment of publicity agents and stamp dealers abroad, we may be able to improve it in the near future.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Government deserves our congratulations for establishing this National Philatelic Museum. But a visit to the Museum where we see stamps from all other countries also shows how backward we are so far as multi-colour printing and design are concerned. The

new type of printing machinery to which the hon. Minister referred has taken a very long time in coming. Unless we have upto-date machinery for printing, it is just impossible to print stamps which are attractive. Can the Government indicate how long it will take for these machines to come ? What steps are being taken to improve the design of the stamps along with multi-colour printing, because design is very important ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : As a result of one of the recommendations of the Seminar, fortunately the Finance Ministry was persuaded to give us foreign exchange for the import of the press and we are hoping that within two to three years the press will be in commission.

SHRI BIREN ROY : Till the press is in commission, will you get printing done abroad ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : So far as the designing is concerned, in this country we do not have much taste in stamp designing. So far as the artists are concerned, although we are holding competitions from time to time, we are trying to interest the leading artists in stamp designing. But I must say that the results are not yet satisfactory, but in the meantime we are trying to concentrate also on our traditional items. For instance, this year we propose printing four stamps of our miniature paintings of Moghul times and other schools.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What were the main recommendations of the Seminar about which he has referred ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : While I am willing to lay on the Table the seminar's recommendations, in broad, the recommendations were on the lines of following a national philatelic policy in the country for the improvement of sales, design and printing.

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

\*270. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Representation of the People Act or the Constitution of India to provide for recalling of the elected Member in case of his going against the party under whose banner he got elected ; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to amend the above Act with a view to provide for re-election in case any elected member changes his political party ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) No. Madam.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Madam, the voters are the monarchs till the elections are over and the elected Members become monarchs after "the elections are over. Then the elected Member indulges in defection and treachery to his own party. To avoid this, I would like to know from the Minister why we cannot have a clause in the declaration regarding this in the nomination paper before the election and also a clause in the declaration even after the election ?

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: Madam, to consider this question a Committee has been constituted and all the details which are cropping up in this regard are being considered by the Committee. A Sub-Committee of the lawyers has also been constituted and that Committee has also considered the different aspects of the issue and after recommendation of the Lawyers' Committee is placed before the full Committee and the full Committee has considered all the issues, the matter will be taken into consideration.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal that I am now making would be forwarded to the Committee. Recalling a Member is a new provision. I think it is only in the Constitution of Switzerland, provision for the recalling of a Member is found.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But you do not go into all those things. You put a question.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I will present the facts and then I will proceed to the question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he will be pleased to refer this proposal to the Committee. Why cannot we have a bye-election both for recalling an erring Member and at the same time for electing a new Member ? It involves less financial difficulty also. Why cannot this proposal be forwarded to the Committee by this Government ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : The hon. Minister has just now stated that the Government has constituted a Committee to go into this question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any recommendations were made by the Chief Election Commissioner to make certain changes in the Election Laws and also whether any changes are being made so far as the question of election petitions are concerned or the question of the electoral system is concerned and, if so, what are the changes or what are the recommendations made by the Chief Election Commissioner ?

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : So far as the question of election petition is concerned, that question does not arise out of this question . . . .

(Interruptions.)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Now, the heading is, Representation of the People Act.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister finish his reply.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : So far as the question of election petition is concerned, although it is provided for in the Representation of the People Act, the question which has been put before this House is not directly concerned with the question of the disposal of the election petition. That will be dealt with separately. So far as the other aspect of the question is concerned, namely, the question of defection, I have submitted that the matter is receiving the serious consideration of the Committee and after

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : What are the recommendations made by the Chief Election Commissioner about changes in the Representation of the People Act ? And I want to know whether those recommendations have been considered or whether these matters have been referred to the Committee which the hon. Minister has just now referred to.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : The Committee has not yet arrived at the stage of recommendations.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Crossing the floor has become a threat to the democratic tradition of this country. May I know from the Minister whether the Lawyers' Committee.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :  
The largest number is from your party.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : From every party. Then, we are more perturbed. And the turn of Mr. Dahya-bhai Patel may come.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :  
I agree with you, that you are perturbed.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : If you are not perturbed, I think you will have to face the same consequences. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Lawyers' Committee discussed this matter With this larger body ? What are the remedies that they have suggested ? May I know whether it is only in the legal or extra-legal domain that they are thinking of ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : The Lawyers' Group of the Committee on Defections made certain recommendations one of which was that the problem of defections should be dealt with rather by a code of conduct which could be evolved by the different political parties ; law should come only secondarily. And regarding law, the Lawyers' Group made two recommendations, firstly that it would be advisable to limit, by an amendment of the Constitution, the strength of Cabinets and secondly to amend the Representation of the People Act, so that a recognised political party's representative, if he changes his affiliation after the election, may forfeit his seat. These are the recommendations which the Lawyers' Group made and these recommendations are being considered by the Committee on Defections.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not want to ask any question relating to the work of the Committee on Defections because I happen to be a member. But it seems that the hon. Minister is a member. He is a member, he has divulged it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can ask each other.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am asking him. I would not commit the impropriety of asking a question with regard to a matter which is under discussion in a Committee. Now, since the hon. Minister has put it, is it not a fact that a proposal was made by the Communist Party that there should be a provision for recall and that it should be accepted in order to stop malpractices and also give the electorate a chance ? Is it not also a fact that the Lawyers' Group of which he is also a member thought that this is neither necessary nor desirable ? I should like to know why the Law Minister thought that it was neither necessary nor desirable and whether it is not a fact that the Communist Party made a proposal that 'defections' for this purpose should be defined as the crossing of the floor, that is going from the Opposition to the Government side and from the Government side to the Opposition. Only such cases change the balance in Parliament and create instability. But they did not accept that suggestion also. I would like to know what is the Government's position now, if they have thought over it.

And finally, before I sit down, is it not a fact, according to the papers circulated by the Home Ministry, that the largest number of defections took place from the Congress Party and the Congress Party has been the recipient of the largest number of defectors in the country ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : It is true that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta representing the Communist Party of India made certain suggestions regarding recall, the crossing of the floor, etc. These recommendations did not appeal to the group of lawyers as either sound or good.

#### MANUFACTURE OF MARINE ENGINES ETC.

\*271. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 416 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1968 and state whether the Union Agriculture Ministry has considered the feasibility of manufacturing within the country the following items :

(a) Marine Engines; (b) Light Planes for spraying pesticides ; (c) Rice Mills ; (d) Crawlers ; and (e) Tillers ?