

with regard to the abolition of third class in Post-Graduate courses. Now, this has been examined by the Examination Reform Committee. They have submitted the report and on that the views of the Universities are being obtained.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या तमाम यूनीवर्सिटीज के विचारों को इस सम्बन्ध में जानने की कोशिश की गई है या जिसके वाइस-चांसलर श्री सी० डी० देशमुख जी हैं उसी यूनीवर्सिटी से इसके सम्बन्ध में राय जानी गई है ?

डा० कालू लाल श्रीमाली : जहाँ तक दूसरा मामला है उसके सम्बन्ध में सब यूनीवर्सिटीज की राय जानी जायेगी ।

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA; May I know, Sir, whether the Universities are free to consider this subject and come to a decision or whether they have to get the approval of the University Grants Commission also before enforcing it?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Universities are free to take a decision in this matter.

मुख्य निर्वाचन-आयुक्त की पत्रकारों से भेंट

*३६८. **श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान :** क्या विधि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुख्य निर्वाचन-आयुक्त, श्री के० वी० के० सुन्दरम् ने पिछली २८ मार्च, को पत्रकारों से हुई एक भेंट में कहा कि वोटों की गिनती और चुनाव के परिणामों की घोषणा के समय निर्वाचन-अधिकारियों पर भारी नियंत्रण रखने के लिये निर्वाचन आयोग को और अधिक तथा सुपरिभाषित शक्तियाँ दी जानी चाहियें; और

(ख) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर 'हां' हो, तो क्या उन्होंने इस आशय के कोई सुझाव दिये हैं, और यदि हां, तो वे सुझाव क्या हैं ?

INTERVIEW OF THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER WITH THE PRESS

*398. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri K. V. K. Sundaram, the Chief Election Commissioner, said in an interview with the journalists on the 28th March last that more and well defined powers should be given to the Election Commission in order to have effective control over the Returning Officers at the time of counting of votes and declaration of election results; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether he has made any suggestions to that effect and if so, what are those suggestions?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI B. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No formal proposal has so far been made to Government by the Chief Election Commissioner who, it appears from the report, is still considering the matter as well as the specific powers which should, according to him, be conferred on him.

विधि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बी० मिश्रा) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त ने इस विषय में अब तक सरकार के सामने कोई औपचारिक सुझाव नहीं रखा है और रिपोर्ट से यह प्रतीत होता है कि वह इस विषय पर और साथ ही साथ उन विशिष्ट शक्तियों के बारे में जो कि उसके विचारानुसार उसे प्रदत्त की जानी चाहिये, अभी विचार कर रहा है ।]

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चीफ इलेक्शन कमिशनर को मौजूदा इंतजाम में क्या डिफिकल्टीज हैं, क्या दिक्कतें हैं जिसकी वजह से वह ऐसा सोच रहे हैं ?

SHRI B. MISHRA: According to the report the Chief Election Commissioner feels that so far as the counting of the votes is concerned, the decision of the Returning Officer is final. That is the law, and it cannot be challenged except through an election petition. There have been some cases in which the counting, according to him, has not been proper but, then, he was quite helpless. Since, under the Constitution the responsibility for the conduct of the election vests in the Election Commissioner, he feels that at the stage of counting and the declaration of result if more effective power is given to him to supervise the work of the Returning Officer, probably much of the dispute which goes before the Election Tribunal would not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Returning Officers are appointed from amongst the Government servants of the State concerned and not from the Central Government servants, and that in a number of cases it has been pointed out by the various parties, notably in Punjab, that this particular officer behaved in the interests of certain candidates of the Government party and there were other reasons also . . .

DIWAN CHAM AN LALL: Which candidate?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: . . . May I know, Sir, whether the Government has considered the advisability of calling a conference of the Chief Election Commissioner together with the representatives of various parties to consider the question whether and how the Election Commissioner could be invested with greater effective powers in the matter?

SHRI B. MISHRA: This is a suggestion. The Chief Election Commissioner himself says that he is considering the matter and the Government is waiting to know as to what specific

powers the Election Commissioner would like to have in the matter. His reply is awaited. They are still considering the matter.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that almost all the Returning Officers in these general elections are from the Executive and none from the Judiciary?

SHRI B. MISHRA: I could not get the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether they are all from the Executive side, or whether there are any from the Judiciary.

SHRI B. MISHRA: I require notice.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it not a fact that under the present law the Chief Election Commissioner enjoys extraordinary powers of direction, control and superintendence and if it is so, why these powers were not utilised when serious complaints were made?

SHRI B. MISHRA: Sir, according to the law, as I have said earlier, once the result is declared by the Returning Officer, the election cannot be challenged except through an election petition.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it not a fact that in a particular Parliamentary constituency the Deputy Election Commissioner asked the Returning Officer not to announce the result, and the result was announced in spite of the request of the Deputy Election Commissioner?

SHRI B. MISHRA: Sir, the question is very vague, since the constituency has not been named. If my hon. friend gives notice, I will try to find out the answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that at the time of the elections, in West Bengal there was a meeting in the Free School St. where the Civil Supplies, rather the Food Ministry is situated, of the Returning Officers in the Chowringhee Constituency from where the Chief Minister of West Bengal contested, and that at this meeting certain instructions were given to the officers—the Polling Officers there as to how they should behave in the interests of Dr. B. C. Roy, and that this matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Election Commissioner and that some Members of Parliament, the leaders of the Communist Party, were prepared even to divulge the names and the source of information and produce all evidence. I should like to know why such things were not investigated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vajpayee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Let him answer that question. It is a specific question. I would like to know what happened to such allegations.

MANUFACTURE OF PEOPLE'S CAR

*290. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the question of manufacture of the People's Car in the public sector; and

(b) if so, what is the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. S. RAMANIAM) :

(a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know, Sir, how long this People's Car will continue to elude the people and what stands in the way of the Government to arrive at a decision?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Till it is manufactured, Sir, it will continue to

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elude. We have to take a decision. I am going into the case and I hope to take a decision soon.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the previous Minister in charge made a definite statement on the floor of this House that within a very short time an announcement would be made, in a matter of days? And now several months have expired and yet no decision has been announced.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I agree that no decision has been taken. But I also require some time to study the case. Since I am now in charge, I should also be satisfied about it.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask my hon. friend whether he is aware that there has been a lot of lobbying by existing manufacturers trying to prevent the Government from taking a decision with regard to this matter?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I can assure the hon. Member that there has been no such lobbying, as far as I am concerned.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: In this respect the Pandey Committee was appointed. It has reported suggesting that there should be some kind of collaboration with a French Company in the manufacture of People's Car. May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister has studied that report and has come to any conclusion in that respect?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is what I am doing. I am studying that report and all the connected matters. I have to take a decision after taking into consideration the various factors which have come into existence after the submission of the report.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is the hon. Minister aware that there has been an impression in the country—it may be a wrong impression—that the decision is being delayed in the interest of a particular car manufacturer?