

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Deputy Minister spoke of the percentage of failures being brought down. Would it be done by lowering the standard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: If the standard is unduly high, then it will have to be moderated.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Has it been made compulsory for all the Government officials to pass this Hindi examination?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: No, there is no compulsion.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Are Government aware that after passing the Hindi examination the person who passes does not know a word of it?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Government do not share that opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Government do not share that opinion—he says.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: May I know whether there are any non-Hindi speaking States which have adopted a similar system of teaching Hindi to its own servants?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Hindi is being taught in a number of non-Hindi States.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is their progress comparable to the progress made by the Central Department?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Every progress is comparable. Either it is for the better or for the worse.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Is it not a fact that those of the Members who speak in Hindi are not understood by some of the Members who presume to have knowledge of Hindi? On one occasion I asked a Member who speaks Hindi as to what the other Member was saying in Hindi. He said he could not follow that Hindi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be so.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I do not know whether the Government is supposed to have special knowledge.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The hon. Minister said that there was no compulsion to pass Hindi, but I would like to know whether the passing of Hindi is absolutely necessary for promotions.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Not yet. Whether he passes in Hindi or not he gets promotion in the usual course.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Is it not advisable to introduce Hindi in Roman script in the interests of national unity?

(No reply.)

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण: मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो मामूली परीक्षाएं रखी गई हैं इनसे जो प्राप्त हिन्दी का ज्ञान है वह क्या पर्याप्त है? और जो कुछ ज्ञान प्राप्त होता है उसको आगे बढ़ाये रखने के लिये बाद में कुछ उनके लिये ट्रेनिंग की तजवीज रखी गई है या नहीं?

श्री गोविन्द बल्लभ पंत: विद्या का सागर अथाह है और उसमें कोई चीज पर्याप्त नहीं होती।

ADOPTION OF THE NEW SYSTEM OF VOTING

*39. **SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new system of voting was adopted in the recent bye-elections to Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha and if so, in how many elections it was adopted;

(b) whether any difficulty was experienced by the voters or polling officers and if so, what remedies are being contemplated; and

(c) whether the indication of preference was to be made by the use of rubber stamps and if so, how it was received by the voters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS): (a) The new system of voting has been adopted so far in bye-elections in seven Legislative Assembly Constituencies.

(b) No special difficulty has been experienced by the voters or the polling officials consequent on the introduction of the new system. The experience gained in a bye-election under the new system has been utilised by the Commission to improve the working of the system at a subsequent bye-election.

(c) It was found from experience in the first bye-election held under the new system that many voters were not able to hold properly the ball-point pens supplied to them and make marks of proper size within the space allotted to the candidate of their choice, but made marks so large as to cover the space allotted to two or more candidates, with the result that such votes had to be rejected. Rubber-stamps giving the impression of a cross inside a circle were, therefore, supplied to the voters in the subsequent bye-election. The stamp was so designed that it was impossible for a voter to make a mark with it so as to cover the space allotted to two candidates. This system produced very encouraging results.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the number of rejected votes has increased by this new method or has decreased, and if so, what is the percentage of increase or decrease?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: If required, I will lay a statement on the Table. The percentage is 3 to 11. The two systems cannot be compared because so far as the old system was concerned, the ballot papers which were kept on the ballot boxes were not counted as rejected votes. Therefore, the two percentages cannot be compared.

SHRI A. K. SEN: I may add that the percentage of rejected votes has shown a tendency to decline after the introduction of the rubber stamp method.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it not true that the percentage of rejected votes has increased in the graduates constituency also?

SHRI A. K. SEN: I require notice for that. I shall be very surprised if that is so.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know if this new system has reduced the chances of selling the ballot papers outside the polling stations, or has it given more opportunity for sale outside?

SHRI A. K. SEN: One of the reasons for the introduction of the new system was to prevent the possibility of ballot papers being taken outside, and we are convinced that this method will completely eliminate any chances of the ballot papers being taken away.

SHRI V. V. SARWATE: May I know whether Government is aware that a similar system was used by the then Holkar State in the Central India in the pre-Independence days, and whether Government would utilise their experience in this regard?

SHRI A. K. SEN: That is a matter of history. Every experience will be utilised.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it a fact that many of the Congress candidates were defeated in places where this system was introduced?

SHRI A. K. SEN: Perhaps the hon. Member knows it better.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know whether it is a fact that this system of marking requires more time and if it requires more time, there would be a less number of voters doing their voting—whether this would not increase the expenditure.

SHRI A. K. SEN: This system takes less time, and that is one of the reasons which prompted the introduction of the system.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what device has been adopted to help the illiterate voters to mark their choice?

SHRI A. K. SEN: If the hon. Member had read the rules carefully, he would have found the answer. Every Election Officer is entrusted with the duty of explaining the method to an elector who is in need of help.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether as a result of this new system false personification has increased and whether there is a proposal to introduce identity cards for the voters?

SHRI A. K. SEN: That is a different matter. This method was not meant to check false personification, if any. Other methods have to be devised for that purpose.

GRANT OF LOAN TO ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SINGARENI COLLIERIES

***40. SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conditions were laid down for the grant of loan to Andhra Pradesh Government in 1957 for the development of Singareni collieries;

(b) if so, what were these conditions;

(c) whether these conditions were accepted by the State Government; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons given by them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (d). The question of the Central Government's participation in the finances and management of the Singareni Collieries Company included 8 RSD.—2

ing the conditions of such participation, is under consideration, in consultation with the Andhra Pradesh Government. Pending the finalisation of the terms and conditions of the participation, a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs was made to the Company in 1957. The terms and conditions of this loan are also being settled in consultation with the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it a fact that the Central Government had asked the Andhra Pradesh Government that one-third of the shares be transferred to the Central Government in order to advance this loan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The question of the form in which financial assistance should be given has been under consideration between the Central Government and the Andhra Pradesh Government. The proposal was made on behalf of the Central Government that there should be capital participation, and because a fairly large amount of Rs. 6 crores was involved it was considered necessary that the Central Government should have a share in the capital of the Company.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Does the Central Government believe that only by participation in the capital, by having its own shares, it would control this Company and the production, and not otherwise?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not know what is the significance of the word "only" used by the hon. Member, but this is certainly one of the very potent and effective methods of exercising joint control in a venture of this nature which is essentially in the Central sector, because Korba coalfields have been developed and there is capital participation between the Central Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Am I to understand that the companies that are owned by the State Governments are not in the public sector, and only where the participation of the Central