

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

*253. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for LAW be pleased to refer to his statement in the Council on the 4th December, 1953, in regard to the amendment of the Constitution and state what progress has been made by Government in the matter of amending the Constitution of India as indicated therein?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Suggestions have been received from the State Governments in respect of amendments to quite a considerable number of articles of the Constitution and they are being examined by the law officers.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether the reference to the State Governments was in particular respect to certain articles or an overall and a general reference?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Yes, the reference was in general terms and we asked them to offer any suggestions they liked.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, which of the State Governments have not sent in their replies?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Practically all of them have sent in their suggestions.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if, apart from consulting the State Governments, the Government is consulting other public bodies like the legal Bench, Bar, etc., or other public organisations?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Well, it is open to the State Governments to consult the local bodies if they so desire. There was nothing to prevent them from doing so.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if any positive step has been taken in order to encourage them so that they can send their opinions?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: As a matter of fact the procedure is to leave it to the

State Governments to consult whomsoever they like to consult.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that the States have not taken any steps whatsoever to consult such bodies?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: It is entirely for the State Governments. I have no information on the subject.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Will the hon. Minister care to find out from the State Governments if they have tried to consult such bodies and thus enlighten himself?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: As I said, it is for the State Governments to take that step.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What are the various articles which have been recommended by the various States for amendment?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I think that is a rather vague question. Surely he does not expect me to read out the whole list and waste the time of the House.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether any amendment is contemplated of article 31 of the Constitution?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: There are any number of amendments regarding article 31 and the articles relating to Fundamental Rights.

LOSS OF BALLOT PAPERS INTENDED FOR ELECTIONS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*254. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the Minister for LAW be pleased to state:

(a) when exactly Government received the report of the recent loss of 6 lakhs of ballot papers intended for use in connection with the elections in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) whether any responsibility for the loss has so far been established?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): (a) and (b). Government received a report from the Election Commission on 15th January 1954, about the loss of 3 cases containing ballot papers meant for the elections in Travancore-Cochin State. The non-delivery of the three cases containing 6 lakh ballot papers was reported by the Controller of Stamps, Nasik, to the Railway authorities on 23rd December 1953, and to the Election Commission on the 2nd January 1954. The Election Commission who is vested with the sole responsibility of superintendence, direction and control of elections under article 324 of the Constitution, had initiated the necessary enquiries into the matter. Two persons responsible for the theft of ballot papers have been convicted.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Were these papers recovered?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: 1,50,000 were recovered out of the 6 lakhs.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Were any of those used?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Instructions were given to ensure that none of the ballot papers which were missing could be put to any use whatsoever, and they were not used in the elections.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What was the intention of those two culprits?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: According to the police report, these boxes were removed by the culprits in the mistaken belief that they contained valuable articles which could be disposed of.

*255. [For answer, vide cols. 2127-2129 *infra*.]

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES OFFERED BY STUTTGART UNIVERSITY

*256. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state what are the educational facilities offered to Indian Students by Stuttgart University, West

Germany, and how many Indian students have received these facilities during the last three years?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): During 1951, the Stuttgart University offered ten seats, including five free studentships, to Indian students for post-graduate studies. Four Indian students joined the University in 1952, but were later shifted to another institution where better facilities in their subjects were available.

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Was there any girl among them?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: No, Sir.

PROFESSIONAL DRESS FOR ADVOCATES

*257. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for LAW be pleased to state whether any proposal for changing the professional dress prescribed for the advocates in the British regime, namely black coat, bands and gown is under consideration?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): No, Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Has Government any intention to ask the High Courts or the Supreme Court for changing it?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Government see no need for it.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are Government satisfied with the present dress?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Government are content to leave the matter to the Supreme Court and to the High Courts.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the significance of these bands, so ugly looking?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise.