

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free and fair polls

4110. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cash-for-vote and free flowing liquor appear to have replaced door-to-door canvassing a few hours ahead of the voting to elect the legislative assembly in Punjab;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in some sensitive constituencies such as Gidderbaha and Lambi, votes had commanded a high price;

(c) if so, the details of liquor and unaccounted cash seized during the elections from the state; and

(d) what appropriate action the Ministry has taken to conduct fair polls in future, free from the above evils?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has intimated that no specific complaint has been made to them in this respect. However, the Election Commission has taken strict measures to prevent misuse of money and liquor in elections.

(c) The Election Commission has further intimated that the total seizure of licit and illicit liquor with effect from announcement of elections to the date of poll is 583257 litres and 32980 litres respectively in the State of Punjab. Total unaccounted cash seized including jewellery during the election in Punjab is Rs. 11,96,97,107/-.

(d) The Election Commission has also intimated that it has made every effort to conduct election in peaceful, free and fair manner. Whenever any complaint was received, necessary action was taken.

Employment opportunities for women in SSI

4111. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state: