

Regarding transparency in functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)- laid

SUSHRI PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR): The issue and doubts with EVMs are not new and continue to persist over every election, ultimately putting apprehensions on people's minds concerning the integrity of the electoral process. Malfunctioning of EVMs and their tampering has been a subject of debate and this would not wither if no reforms are initiated. Like every machine, EVMs, being electronic devices, are vulnerable to hacking or manipulation, which could undermine the integrity of elections. Major concerns include the lack of transparency in the machine's programming. While manufacturers maintain that modern EVMs are secure, and equipped with safeguards like voter-verified paper audit trails (VVPAT), doubts persist due to occasional technical glitches and allegations of malfeasance. These discrepancies in EVMs have raised serious concerns about their ability to ensure free and fair elections. We demand that the Government take immediate action to address these issues by ensuring greater transparency in the functioning of EVMs. Implementing 100% cross verification of EVM votes with VVPAT slips must be taken urgently and at all poll booths. If the Government fail to guarantee transparency in the functioning of EVMs, a return to the ballot-voting system should be imminent to restore public confidence.