

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:45  
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000  
REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION  
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

**Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government have decided to review the Constitution;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the articles/aspects of the Constitution likely to be reviewed;
- (d) whether the Government have constituted any panel/committee for the purpose;
- (e) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to submit its report;
- (f) whether there has been wide spread opposition to this move of the Government from different quarters;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for striving a consensus and preparing a conducive atmosphere for undertaking this exercise ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI)

(a)to(d) The Government have constituted the `National commission to Review the Working of the Constitution`, vide Government Resolution dated February 22, 2000 in pursuance of the National Agenda for Governance which contains a pledge that a Commission shall be appointed to review the Constitution of India in the light of more than 50 years of its working and to make suitable recommendations for any possible changes.

(e) The Commission consists of a Chairperson and 10 Members. The terms of reference of the Commission are to examine, in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, as to how best the constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that are required in the provisions of the constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features. The Commission will submit its report within one year.

(f) to (h) Certain representations were received opposing the setting up of the Commission. However, in view of the pledge made in the National Agenda for Governance which was affirmed in the President's Address followed by Motion of Thanks from both Houses of Parliament, it was considered necessary to set up the Commission.

(c): The Commission is yet to submit its report to the Government. The Government would examine the report of the Commission as and when the same is received.