

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7619
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS
ANANDRAO ADSUL

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

- (a) whether large scale bungling worth crores of rupees has come to the notice of the Government in issuing photo identity cards to voters in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the plan of the Government to issue photo identity cards to voters has proved a failure;
- (d) if so, the reason therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM JETHMALANI)

(a) and (b) : The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has made certain observations, about underutilization of funds allotted for implementation of the scheme of Electors` Photo Identity Cards, excess/avoidable expenditure by some States due to non-observance of instructions issued by the Election Commission (vide para 4 of Chapter IV of its report for the year 1997, March, Vol-III).

(c) to (e) : No, sir. According to the Election Commission, the move to require production of these Photo Identity Cards or any other specified proof of identity in the recently held Assembly elections in Haryana has largely been welcomed. In that state, about 88% of electors have been issued these Cards and the data received from CEO, Haryana indicates that nearly 80 per cent of the electors produced them at the time of voting. The Commission has been continuously monitoring the progress of the scheme of issuance of Electors` Photo Identity Cards to ensure that all citizens registered as electors are issued defect free Identity Cards. About thirty-eight crore electors representing 62% of the eligible electors of the country have so far been provided Identity Cards.