

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:600

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN GUJARAT

CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has announced the dates for elections to Legislative Assembly of Gujarat and other States and bye-elections to Lok Sabha after assessing the situation;

(b) if so, the dates and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or likely to be taken to hold peaceful, free and fair elections?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has announced the schedule for the General Elections to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly as per which these elections are scheduled to be held on 12th December, 2002. The Commission has also announced the schedule of three bye-elections to Lok Sabha from Gujarat, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal and five bye-elections to the State Legislative Assemblies, one each from Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and three from Rajasthan. The schedule for these bye-elections is the same as that for General Elections to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

(b) The Election Commission has informed that it is taking all steps to ensure free and fair elections to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and bye-elections. It has decided to depute Observers to oversee the elections. It has asked the Central Government for deployment of paramilitary forces in adequate strength in the State of Gujarat to ensure smooth elections. It has directed the Gujarat Government to take necessary steps for holding the elections in a peaceful and smooth manner. It has also decided to take the following steps for the poll to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly:-

(i) One day poll for the entire State.

(ii) Use of Electronic Voting Machines in the conduct of poll in all the constituencies.

(iii) Identification of voters through Electors' Photo Identity Cards and other modes to ensure proper poll process in the State.