

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:260
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
VOTER IDENTITY CARDS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

- (a) the details of progress made in providing Voter Identity Cards by the Election Commission during the year, 2002;
- (b) the percentage of electorate provided with Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the total cost incurred thereon;
- (d) the time by which all the voters are likely to be provided with such cards and its use made mandatory for casting one's vote in an election; and
- (e) the steps taken to remove discrepancies noted so far in preparation of such cards?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

- (a) The Election Commission has informed that revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date in respect of more than two crore and thirty four lakh electors has been done with defect free voter identity cards during the year 2002.
- (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
- (c) The Government has since 1994-95 released a provisional sum of Rs. 434,45,61,710/- to various State/Union territory Governments for the scheme of issuance of voter identity cards.
- (d) The Election Commission has informed that it has fixed a threshold limit of 85% coverage in the first phase of the scheme and it has directed the States and Union territories to complete the issue of voters' identity cards upto 30.9.2003 in those twenty States/Union territories where intensive revision of electoral rolls was conducted with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date and 31.12.2003 in respect of the seven States where intensive revision of electoral rolls is being conducted with reference to 1.1.2003 as the qualifying date. In this context, a statement containing the names of the States falling under the aforesaid two categories is also laid on the Table of the House. The Election Commission has further informed that as a step towards achieving coverage of 85% of the electorate, it is continuously emphasizing progressive use of voter identity cards in all the elections for establishing the identity of electors during elections besides allowing other documents for establishing identity in case of electors who do not possess voter identity cards.
- (e) The Election Commission has informed that it had carried out verification of the voter identity cards already issued to electors by conducting house to house survey during special intensive revision of electoral rolls in twenty States/Union territories with reference to 1.1.2002 as the qualifying date and in seven States with reference to 1.1.2003 as the qualifying date to obtain the feedback regarding the availability and correctness of the entries in the voter identity cards already issued. The data so obtained is synchronized with the current electoral rolls which will provide necessary inputs to launch a focused campaign for issuance of the voter identity cards to the residual electors and to enable corrections, if any, in the cards issued earlier. The Election Commission has also instructed the enumerators and supervisors to take back the voter identity cards of such persons who have expired, and deposit the same with the Electoral Registration Officers.