

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
POLL EXPENDITURE
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

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

- (a) the steps being taken to check the increasing expenditure on elections; and
- (b) the estimated amount of expenditure being incurred at present on conducting the elections for each seat of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS

(SHRI RAM JETHMALANI)

(a) : The Constitution has entrusted the responsibility of superintendence, direction, control and conduct of all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State to the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission has taken several steps to check the expenditure on electioneering by candidates. One of the measures taken in this regard by the Commission is the appointment of expenditure observers for every constituency who keep a watch on daily account of expenditure of the candidates. The Commission takes action regarding disqualifying those candidates who do not file returns of their expenditure under the provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Further, to reduce the expenses on their election campaigning, the candidates are given free airtime on electronic media by the Commission in consultation with the Prasar Bharti. The reduction in the campaign period to 14 days and instructions of the Commission regarding enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct have also helped in keeping a check on poll expenditure.

(b) : The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States is met by the Government of the concerned States and Union Territories (with Legislatures) from their respective Consolidated Funds. The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the House of the People is met by the Government of India. The expenditure on the conduct of elections is shared equally between the Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations (with legislatures) if the elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States/UTs are held simultaneously. The figures of estimated amount of expenditure on conduct of elections for each of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, as sought by the hon'ble Member are, however, neither maintained nor it is practically feasible to maintain.