

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003
RUNNING OF LOTTERIES
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of the Government on running of lotteries, including State lotteries and on-line lotteries;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make the provision in the regulations with a view to ensure that lotteries do not assume the form and status of gambling;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 FOR 16.12.2003.

(a): The policy of the Union Government has been against holding or authorization of lotteries or extending official support to lotteries including State lotteries in any form and for any purpose, howsoever laudable, as such lotteries tend to encourage gambling and disturb the normal economic equilibrium, even if this effect is imperceptible. Accordingly, the Union Government does not organize any lottery of its own and does not encourage State lotteries. Union territories have also been advised not to permit any lotteries.

(b) to (d): The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 which seeks total ban on lotteries under entry 40 of List 1(Union List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 1999. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. The Committee has submitted its report and recommended that the Government may take up the issue of banning the lotteries at the political level and attempt to evolve consensus in the matter. The matter was taken up in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on the 8th February, 2003, but a consensus could not be evolved.