

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1350

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2005

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Chandel Shri Suresh;Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Rawat Shri Bachi Singh;Shivanna Shri M;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

(a) whether the Government has received some recommendations/requests from the Election Commission, Supreme Court and from the general public for making some amendments in the electoral laws;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made therein; and

(c) the time by which these amendments are likely to be made?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13-03-2003 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.490 of 2002 (Peoples Union for Civil Liberties and another vs. the Union of India) has directed the Election Commission of India to seek certain information regarding criminal cases, assets and liabilities and educational qualification from the contesting candidates for the benefit of the voters. The said directions of the apex court are the law of land in terms of article 141 of the Constitution. The Election Commission of India has forwarded to the Government of India a set of 22 proposals on electoral reforms, the details of which have been made available for general information of the public by the Election Commission press note No. EC/PN/26/2004 dated 2-8-2004. Similarly, the Government has been receiving numerous suggestions from the general public on the subject from time to time. It is, however, not possible to give details of the suggestions within the prescribed limits of answering the question.

(c): The process of reform of electoral laws is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process. It may, therefore, not be possible to indicate any time frame for implementing the proposals of electoral laws.