

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2455

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005

STATE FUNDING FOR ELECTION

Appadurai Shri M.;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Jai Prakash Shri ;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has stressed the need for a national consensus to ensure greater transparency in financing of political parties and spending on elections issues like State funding of elections;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to discuss the issue with various political parties and to find out a clear cut view; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps Government proposes to take to ensure that corruption during elections is properly checked?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (c): The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 was an attempt towards bringing in transparency in political funding. The said Act, by insertion of sections 29B and 29C in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, sought to impart transparency in collection of donations by political parties thereby minimizing corruption in the electoral process and making a modest beginning towards State funding of elections. The Government is in favour of going ahead with State funding of elections, as part of the process of electoral reforms, so as to further lessen the burden of election expenditure on the political parties, which will in turn lessen the tendency of parties resorting to unfair means in collecting funds for contesting elections. The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Since it is a long drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any time frame.