

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2010
ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

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

- (a) the annual expenditure incurred on maintenance of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) by the Election Commission annually;
- (b) whether EVMs are unable to put to use where the candidates contesting election is more than 64;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether it is proposed to design/ restructure EVMs to ward off such eventualities; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that EVMs are time tested and tamper proof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.268 for 12.08.2010

(a): The information is being collected from the Election Commission of India and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c) and (d): Under Rule 49A of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 made under section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every voting machine shall have a control unit and ballot unit and shall be of such design as may be approved by the Election Commission of India . The Commission has approved the designs of voting machines produced by Bharat Electronics, Ltd., Bangalore and Electronics Corporation of India, Ltd., Hyderabad. A ballot unit caters upto 16 candidates. A maximum of four ballot units linked together catering upto 64 candidates can be used with one control unit. From the year 2004 onwards, all elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies have been held through the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and no such eventualities have been encountered.

(e): All possible safeguards are taken under the present system against tampering of the ballot boxes and violation of secrecy of vote are maintained in the voting machine.