

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:874
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
BOGUS VOTERS
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Lbogus voters` have been included in the electoral rolls in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Election Commission has received any complaints about bogus voters in the electoral rolls during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action contemplated by the Government in this regard;and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to verify the electoral rolls and remove the names of bogus voters from electoral rolls?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (c): The Representation of People Act, 1950 and the rules made thereunder provide adequate provisions for registration of name, Correction of name in electoral rolls and for preferring appeal against wrongful deletion of any name or wrongful entry of any particulars in the electoral rolls or non-inclusion of any name. As per the information furnished by the Election Commission a few instances came to its notice where duplicate entries of voters in the rolls as well as entry of in-eligible persons as voters on the roll has been made.

The Election Commission of India has intimated that it has received complaints in the last 2 years about duplicate entries of voters in the rolls as well as entry of ineligible persons as voters on the roll from the States of Andhra Pradesh (6), Arunachal Pradesh (1), Gujarat (1), Karnataka (2), Kerala (1), Maharashtra (2), Puducherry (1) and Tripura (5), wherein allegations were made that the bogus/ineligible names have been included in the Electoral Rolls.

(d) The complaints were sent to the Chief Electoral Officers for enquiry and report. On enquiry it was found that mostly the complaints related to duplicate entries or continuance of persons on roll who have since shifted or are dead. In the complaint in respect of Kerala state, it was found on enquiry that about 114 persons, who were allegedly residents of other districts, had got their names enrolled in the electoral roll of neighbouring district where a bye-election was scheduled. The names of all the 114 persons were deleted from the electoral roll and disciplinary action had been initiated against 3 Village Officers and 2 Municipal Secretaries. The complaint relating to the state of Gujarat was received in the Commission on the 24.6.2010 and the Commission decided to send 4 teams to Gandhinagar, Ahmadabad and Vadodara for on-the-spot verification of complaint.

(e) The Election Commission has taken several measures to remove the duplicate/ multiple entries and names of dead persons from the electoral rolls.

(i) The electoral rolls have (since 2008) been converted into photo electoral roll. Presence of the photograph of elector has become a major deterrence for `bogus` enrolment.

(ii) Annual revision of roll is undertaken including in some cases, intensive door-to-door verification of electors to improve the health of electoral rolls.

(iii) The draft of the electoral rolls are now being furnished to the Gram Sabhas, RWAs, local authorities, NGOs, etc., apart from the recognized political parties to point out any omission or commission before finalizing the rolls. The names of electors are being read out in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas, RWAs, etc. and they are now assisting the electoral registration authorities in getting the names deleted of those persons who are no longer residing in their areas or those who have died.

(iv) The authorities concerned with the registration of births and deaths have also been directed to furnish lists of dead persons to the electoral registration authorities twice in a year - January and July.

(v) The Computer technology is also being used extensively and intensively to identify and weed out the duplicate/ multiple entries.

(vi) The draft rolls are displayed at a large number of designated locations very near the localities concerned enabling the residents to scrutinize those rolls and file claims and objections at those designated locations themselves. Special campaign drives are also

carried out at a large number of designated locations on specified days, which are normally holidays for the general public. Apart from the other designated locations, the post offices in municipal areas of Hyderabad were used as designated locations and the assistance of the postal authorities was taken for displaying the rolls, receiving claims and objections and even for the local verification of those claims and objections.

(vi) Booth Level Officers have been appointed for each part of electoral roll, who are mostly Govt. servants and reside in the same locality for assisting the electors to get their names enrolled and at the same time, BLOs provide information regarding dead/shifted voters so that names of ineligible voters are removed by the ERO by following due procedure of law.

(vii) Besides, each recognised national and State party has been authorised to appoint a BLA for each polling station (part of electoral roll). They can report to the BLO about the veracity of the names in the electoral roll of their respective polling stations for remedial action.

(ix) Apart from this, the electoral rolls are now available on website of each State/Union Territory for general information of public for corrections/additions/deletions.