

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515

ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010

REVIEW OF ELECTION PROCESS

Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

(a) whether the Election Commission had called upon all party meeting recently to discuss issues related to use of money and muscle power in elections, use of EVMs and communalisation of politics etc.;

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome of the meeting?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): The Election Commission held a meeting on 4th October 2010, with recognised National and State Political Parties to discuss issues related to (i) Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs); (ii) Money Power in Elections; (iii) 'Paid News' in connection with Elections; and (iv) Criminalization of Politics. All the six National Political Parties and 35 out of 49 State Political Parties attended the meeting.

(c): As a follow up of the discussions pertaining to EVMs, the Election Commission has asked the Technical Expert Committee of the Commission for detailed examination of 'Voter Verifiable Paper Trail' in EVM in all its aspects through a process of wide consultations. All the recognised National and State Political Parties have been requested to send suggestions of their party in the matter, if any, for consideration by the Technical Expert Committee and one of the Secretaries in the Election Commission has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the matter.

On the issue of money power at elections, the Election Commission issued certain instructions on the 20th October, 2010 to supplement its earlier instructions on the subject and copies thereof circulated to the political parties.