

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4963  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010  
STATE FUNDING OF ELECTION  
Joshi Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether any commission has been set up by the Government for State Funding of elections;
- (b) if so, the number of meetings of the commission held so far;
- (c) whether the commission has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the time by which it was submitted; and
- (e) the main recommendations made by the commission alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

**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 the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4963 for the 9th December, 2010.

Pursuant to a decision taken at the meeting of the leaders of various political parties held on the 22nd May, 1998, under the Chairmanship of the then Home Minister, the Government of India constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament. Initially the Committee consisted of seven Members (all Members of Parliament) including the Chairman. Subsequently, the Committee was expanded by the inclusion of one more Member of Parliament, namely, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, on the 6th August, 1998. Further, the services of Shri S.K. Mendiratta, a former Director (Law) and Principal Secretary to the Election Commission, were provided to assist the Committee as its Secretary. The Committee after its constitution held a total of eight formal meetings. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1998.

The Committee had recommended inter alia, creation of an 'election fund' of Rs. 1200 crores with contribution of Rs.600 crores from the Central Government and remaining Rs.600 crores by way of contribution from all the State Governments including some other recommendations. The Committee, therefore, did not recommend that the Central Government should bear full funds in this regard and no such proposal is, therefore, under consideration of the Government. The Government had, however, invited the comments / views of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Committee and the majority view of the State Governments was that due to financial constraint the State Governments will not be able to contribute their share and, therefore, the whole amount should be contributed by the Central Government itself.

In addition to the above, the main recommendation of the Committee which has been considered by the Government and it had sought the recommendations of the Election Commission of India on suggestions made by the Committee. The Election Commission made several recommendations after consulting national and state political parties for providing facilities at state cost to recognized political parties and candidates set up by them, in kind, for example, e.g. [(a)Recognised National/State Parties:] accommodation for headquarters; 3,000 telephone calls for a National Party headquarters and 1,000 calls for a State party headquarters per month over and above the free calls, if any, permitted to any subscriber, one computer with internet connection; adequate air time (already being granted) on Government controlled electronic media; [(b)Candidates of recognized political parties:] 300 litres of Petrol or 450 litres of Diesel for each candidate for every assembly segment, subject, however, to a maximum of 1500 litres of petrol or 2,250 litres of diesel for a Parliamentary Constituency; specified quantity of paper for printing of voter slips, etc. in accordance with the number of electors in the Constituency; postage @ one communication (not weighting more than 10 grams) per elector in the Constituency, etc.; one set of loudspeaker with microphone for every Assembly segment, subject to maximum of 10 sets for a Parliamentary Constituency; instead of installing land-line telephone, provision for a Mobile Pre-Paid Card to every candidate for Rs. 1500/- (i.e.Rs.100/-per day) for every Assembly segment, subject to maximum of Rs. 7,500/- for a Parliamentary Constituency; candidates' camps at each polling station (beyond a distance of 200 metres) with two chairs and a table; refreshments and food packets for counting agents inside the counting hall (for independent candidates also); etc.

In respect of the items mentioned at (a) above, the Election Commission recommended that the same may be provided to political parties by the Government, while the materials/facilities mentioned at (b) above, those may be furnished to the candidates directly by the District Election Officers concerned. The Commission also recommended that the expenditure on account of funding on the above items under (b) should be suitably deductible from the expenditure ceiling of a candidate.

