

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
ELECTIONS AND PAID NEWS
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Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the problem of paid news in elections has become an issue of great concern to the Election Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to make the electoral system free from this menace?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Election Commission has intimated that the problem of paid news has become an issue of concern to the Commission. The paid news during elections appear as news or analysis published/ telecast in any media (Print and Electronic) about a particular candidate or a party for a price in cash or kind as consideration. In order to identify and to deal with paid news, the Commission issued instructions dated 8th June 2010 and 23rd September 2010 to the Chief Electoral Officers to constitute District Level Committees with Deputy District Election Officer (Dy.DEO) and District Public Relation Officer (DPRO), Central Government Information and Broadcasting Ministry's officials and a journalist or senior citizen as nominated by Press Council of India. This Committee identifies the instances of paid news in different media and sends the report on the basis of which the expenditure on such news at DAVP rates has to be added to the election expenses of the candidate.