

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:103

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the influence of money power in parliamentary and assembly polls is on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Election Commission has also suggested some measures to control the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.103 for answer on the 3rd March, 2011

(a) to (d): The Government and the Election Commission of India is seriously concerned about the growing influence of Money Power in Parliamentary and Assembly Elections. The Election Commission held a meeting on 4th October 2010, with recognized National and State Political Parties to discuss issues related to use of Money Power etc. in elections. On the issue, the Commission informed the participants about the various measures taken by it to control the use of money power in recently held Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections, 2010 and simultaneous Bye- election to Banka Parliamentary Constituency. Such measures including opening of separate division in the Election Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of Expenditure Observers and Expenditure Micro Observers, Flying squads to keep vigil over movement of cash, liquor and other items during elections, Media Monitoring Cell to watch media advertisements and paid news, Maintenance of Shadow Observation Register of each candidate by the Accounting team, Video Viewing Team and Surveillance Team to oversee major items of expenditure, opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving of Income Tax Department were appreciated by the Political Parties. Considering the impact of the monitoring mechanism of Election Expenditure and receiving useful feedbacks in the Bihar Assembly Election, 2010, the Election Commission has decided to implement the same mechanism with greater thrust in the forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Tami Nadu and Puducherry taking into consideration the state specific requirements in dealing with the menace of money power.