

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

ELECTORAL REFORMS

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Core Committee to work as a nodal Committee for electoral reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the terms and reference of the said Core Committee; and
- (d) the details of the outcome of the meetings held by the Core Committee so far in various parts of the country?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): A Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek K. Tankha, Additional Solicitor General. The details have been put on the website of Ministry of Law and Justice – www.lawmin.nic.in.

(c): The terms of reference of the Core-Committee inter alia include examination of the current issues in our election system in consultation with the stakeholders and suggest measures on the following issues:-

- (i) Criminalisation of Politics
- (ii) Funding of Elections
- (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Elections
- (iv) Regulation of Political Parties
- (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties
- (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law

In doing so, the Committee shall examine the recommendations made by the Election Commission of India and other Commissions set up by various bodies of the Government of India in the past. The Committee shall also hold regional consultations to elicit the views of a cross section of people from across the country. The Committee shall follow up regional consultations with a national consultation to be held in Delhi.

(d): The Legislative Department with co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted six-regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Bengaluru on the 12th December, 2010, 9th 16th, 30th January, 5th and 13th February, 2011 respectively, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who inter-alia included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. On the basis of the inputs received from these consultations, a vision document will be prepared and put in the public domain. A National Consultation is also scheduled to be held on the 2nd and 3rd April, 2011 at New Delhi. On the basis of the inputs received/as may be received in all these consultations, legislative process as may be considered necessary will be initiated by the Government in due course. In view of the complexity of the subject, it is not possible to lay down any rigid time-frame in this regard.