

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1317

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

BAN ON OPINION POLLS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ban the opinion polls and also ban advertisements appearing in the print media on the day of polls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on 1st October, 2010. The details of the proposals which inter alia include restriction on opinion polls and restriction on advertisement in the print media during the period of forty-eight hours before the conduct of poll have been put on the website of Ministry of Law and Justice-www.lawmin.nic.in. 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 shortly 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.