

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2369
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011
ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission proposes to make use of Electronic Voting Machines mandatory in all the elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether EVMs are proposed to be used mandatory for election to municipal bodies and panchayats; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Section 61A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that the giving and recording of votes by voting machines in such manner as may be prescribed, may be adopted in such constituency or the constituencies as the Election Commission may, having regard to the circumstances of each case, specify. By exercising that power, since 2004, the Election Commission has been using these machines in all general elections to the House of People and the Legislative Assemblies of every State and all bye-elections to those Houses (barring a few bye-elections in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2010). No change in the law is proposed for making the use of Electronic Voting Machines mandatory.

(c) and (d): It is for the State Governments, by law, to provide for giving and recording of votes by voting machines for elections to the municipal bodies and panchayats. Hence, no time limit could be laid down by the Central Government in this regard.