

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2064  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011  
ELECTORAL REFORMS  
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) whether the Government is holding consultations on electoral reforms across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the meetings held so far;
- (c) the details of people from different walks of life who have participated or have been invited to participate in this consultative process;
- (d) the salient and crystalized suggestions and recommendations on which there has been a consensus so far; and
- (e) the roadmap in this regard, that the Government has in mind, following the National Level Consultations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (c): With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Solicitor General. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations. These were held as under:-

Place of meeting	Date
Bhopal	12th December, 2010
Kolkata	9th January, 2011
Mumbai	16th January, 2011
Lucknow	30th January, 2011
Chandigarh	5th February, 2011
Bengaluru	13th February, 2011
Guwahati	12th June, 2011

Various 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), law students, advocates, etc., and views have been gathered. As the persons who have participated in these consultations are in large numbers, it is not possible to give details of each of the participants.

(d) and (e): During these consultations several issues have been brought forward which broadly related to:

- (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. As the matter involves deep study and careful consideration in consultation with the political parties before a decision could be arrived at, it is difficult to lay down any rigid time frame in this regard. The roadmap, however, would be

drawn up as soon as the consultation process would be over.