

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2066

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from various quarters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted on the tamperability of the EVMs; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government/Election Commission in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): The Election Commission of India has stated that certain complaints alleging the tamperability of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were received from few individuals and groups as well as from members of some political parties. Petitions were also filed by some individuals/NGO/political parties before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Courts of Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh alleging the possibility of tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines. The Hon'ble High Courts of Bombay and Madras had directed the petitioners to approach the Election Commission in this regard. All the individual complainants and petitioners in the court cases were invited by the Election Commission and afforded opportunity to demonstrate the tamperability of the EVMs. Few complainants/petitioners appeared before the Commission but none of them was able to demonstrate in any manner their alleged charge of tamperability of the EVMs.

(c) and (d): The Election Commission stated that it is satisfied with the functioning of the EVMs. Though apprehensions were expressed by some persons that the EVMs can be tampered with, but so far no one has been able to demonstrate or prove before the Commission that the EVMs used in the country's election process, can be manipulated or tampered with or to make it to act in a designed manner, although the Commission has offered opportunities more than once to those alleging the tamperability of EVMs.