

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3699  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011  
POLL EXPENSES OF MLAs  
Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

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

- (a) whether many elected MLAs in the newly constituted Assemblies have reported their poll expenses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some MLAs filed a zero expense statement with the Election Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Election Commission to verify the correctness of their statement?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): As per the provisions of section 78 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every contesting candidate at an election shall, within thirty days from the date of election of the returned candidate or, if there are more than one returned candidate at the election and the dates of their election are different, the later of those two dates, lodge with the District Election Officer an account of his election expenses which shall be a true copy of the account kept by him or by his election agent under section 77 of the said Act. After the expiration of the time specified in the said section 78 for the lodging of the accounts of election expenses, as soon as may be, the District Election Officer has to furnish a report on lodging of accounts of election expenses by each contesting candidate, whether the candidate has lodged his account of election expenses and if so, whether within the time and in the manner required by the said Act and the Rules. After receipt of the reports from all the District Election Officers, relating to the submission of accounts of election expenses in respect of the General elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry-2011, the Election Commission will decide whether the account of election expenses have been lodged in time or in the manner prescribed.

(c) and (d): The Election Commission of India has stated that no information regarding filing of zero expense account by any newly elected MLA is available with them.

(e): After the receipt of the District Election Officer's report, if the Election Commission decides that any contesting candidate has failed to lodge the account of election expenses within the time and in the manner required by the aforesaid Act and the rules, it shall by notice in writing call upon the candidate to show cause why he or she should not be disqualified under section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.