

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:700
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011
AUTOMATIC SYSTEM FOR VOTERS
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether Election Commission is planning to introduce an automatic system of providing acknowledgement to voters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any panel has been formed to study the proposed system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.700 for answer on the 4th August, 2011

(a) to (d): The Election Commission has intimated that it had a meeting with all political parties on 4th October, 2010. At the meeting, some political parties suggested the introduction of voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) in the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) to further enhance voters' confidence and satisfaction. Based on the suggestions received at the meeting, the Commission has referred the issue to its Technical Expert Committee to give its views after wide consultation. The Technical Expert Committee has the following members: -

S. No	Name	Designation	Specialization
1	Prof. P V Indiresan	Former Director of IIT, Madras	Field of Communication
2	Prof. D T Shahani	Professor of IIT Delhi	Electronic Instrumentation, Electromagnetics, Antennas
3	Prof. A K Agarwala	Chief Design Engineer (S.G.) of IIT Delhi	Instrument Design Electronic Design,
4	Prof. Rajat Moona	Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT of Kanpur.	Computer Architecture, VLSI Design, Embedded systems, Storage Architectures, Security, Smart Card and RFID.
5	Prof. D K Sharma	Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT of Mumbai.	Semiconductor Devices, VLSI Design, MOS Device and Embedded Systems.

The Expert Committee had several rounds of meetings with Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore (BEL) and Electronic Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad (ECIL) on this issue and then had met the political parties and other civil society members who were engaged with the Commission on the issue of EVMs to explore the possibility of introducing the VVPAT system in the EVM. On the direction of the Expert Committee, the BEL and ECIL had made a prototype and demonstrated before the Committee and the

Commission. The Expert Committee had recommended that the prototype should be tested in field in extreme environmental conditions to get an actual assessment of the trial. The trial should be in real election like condition.

Based on the recommendation of the Expert Committee on EVM & VVPAT system, the Commission had conducted simulate election for field trial of VVPAT system in the district of the States mentioned below: -

Sl.No. Name of State Name of Location Date of Poll

1 Jammu & Kashmir Ladakh 24.07.2011 2 Kerala Thiruvananthapuram 24.07.2011 3 Meghalaya Cherrapunjee 26.07.2011 4 NCT of Delhi East Delhi District 24.07.2011 5 Rajasthan Jaisalmer 24.07.2011

The Commission also requested all the recognised National and State Political Parties, Civil Societies, citizens of India to witness the trial to have a first hand experience of the system.