

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:878

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

BOGUS VOTERS

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of bogus voters have been included in electoral rolls in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Election Commission has received any complaints about bogus voters in electoral rolls during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government proposes to take to verify electoral rolls and remove the names of bogus voters from electoral rolls?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) & (b): The Election Commission of India has stated that it is not correct to say that the number of complaints is large.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The number of complaints received by the Election Commission of India is as under:

- (i) Andhra Pradesh - 6
- (ii) Tripura - 5
- (iii) Karnataka & Maharashtra - 2 each
- (iv) Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat & Puducherry - 1 each.

(e): The role of preparation of electoral rolls for the Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies vests in the Election Commission of India. The steps taken by the Commission in this regard are indicated in the attached Statement.

Statement referred to in reply to part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 878 for answer on 4-8-2011.

The Election Commission of India has stated that they have taken the following steps in this regard:

- (i) The electoral rolls have (since 2008) been converted into photo electoral roll. Presence of the photograph of elector has become a major deterrence for 'bogus' enrolment.
- (ii) Annual revision of roll is undertaken including in some cases, intensive door to door verification of electors to improve the health of electoral rolls.
- (iii) The draft of the electoral rolls are now being furnished to the Gram Sabhas, RWAs, local authorities, NGOs, etc., apart from the recognized political parties to point out any omission or commission before finalizing the rolls. The names of electors are being read out in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas, RWAs, etc. and they are now assisting the electoral registration authorities in getting the names deleted of those persons who are no longer residing in their areas or those who have died.
- (iv) The authorities concerned with the registration of births and deaths have also been directed to furnish lists of dead persons to the electoral registration authorities twice in a year - January and July.

(v) The Computer technology is also being used extensively and intensively to identify and weed out the duplicate/multiple entries.

(vi) The draft rolls are displayed at a large number of designated locations very near the localities concerned enabling the residents to scrutinize those rolls and file claims and objections at those designated locations themselves. Special campaign drives are also carried out at a large number of designated locations on specified days, which are normally holidays for the general public. Apart from the other designated locations, the post offices in municipal areas of Hyderabad were used as designated locations and the assistance of the postal authorities was taken for displaying the rolls, receiving claims and objections and even for the local verification of those claims and objections.

(vii) Booth Level Officers have been appointed for each part of electoral roll, who are mostly Govt. servants and reside in the same locality for assisting the electors to get their names enrolled and, at the same time, BLOs provide information regarding dead/shifted voters so that names of ineligible voters are removed by the ERO by following due procedure of law.

(viii) Besides, each recognised National and State party has been requested to appoint a BLA for each polling station (part of electoral roll). They can work with BLOs to check the veracity of the names in the electoral roll of their respective polling stations for remedial action.

(ix) Apart from this, rolls are now available on website of each State/UT for general information of public for corrections/additions/deletions.