

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011

DEBARRING CRIMINALS FROM CONTESTING POLLS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the total number of public representative with criminal background in the country at present;
- (b) whether Suggestions have been received from various quarters to debar criminals from contesting elections;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared a draft of the Bill to amend the Representation of the People`s Act in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which such a legislation is likely to be brought before the Parliament for its consideration?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

- (a): The Election Commission has intimated that it is not in possession of any compilation of existing number of public representatives with criminal background in the country.
- (b) to (e): Proposals have been received from different quarters which inter alia includes, Election Commission, Law Commission of India, etc., to disqualify a person having criminal antecedents from contesting election to Parliament and State Legislatures against whom charges have been framed by any competent court before the specified period prior to the elections. As the matter involves detailed study and careful consideration in consultation with the political parties, before a decision could be arrived at, no rigid time-frame could be given at this stage.