

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Kashyap Shri Virender;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Mitra Shri Somendra Nath;Shantha J.;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring about comprehensive electoral reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Dinesh Goswami Committee had recommended several measures including giving Model Code of Conduct statutory backing;
- (d) if so, the details of these recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to give Election Model Code of Conduct statutory backing;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and(b): With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included

- (i) Crimilisation of Politics;
- (ii) Funding of Elections;
- (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Election;
- (iv) Regulation of Political Parties;
- (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties;

(vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who inter-alia included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. An all party Consultation is also under consideration. On the basis of the inputs received or as may be received in all these consultations, legislative process as may be considered necessary will be initiated by the Government in due course.

(c) and (d) : The Dinesh Goswami had recommended several measures including statutory backing for vital and important provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. An extract of these recommendations is attached as Annexure 'A'.

(e) : At present there is no such proposal.

(f) and (g) : Do not arise.