

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1522  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012  
AMENDMENT IN IPC  
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission has asked the Government to amend the law to make bribing of voters, in cash or kind, a cognizable offence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to amend IPC Section 171(B) and make it a cognizable offence;
- (d) whether any mechanism has been devised to ascertain whether the voter has casted his vote in favour of the bribe giver; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): The Election Commission has suggested for amendment to the First Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to make the offence of bribery under section 171B/171E of IPC a cognizable offence. As the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are in the Concurrent List to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and are being administered by the State Governments, the comments/views of the State Government/Union territories Administrations have been sought on the proposal. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Do not arise.