

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4581
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2009
DENIAL OF FRANCHISE TO WEAKER SECTION
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether complaints have been received by the Election Commission that voters from weaker sections were not allowed to vote at some polling booths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India to check such irregularity?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Election Commission of India has intimated that after poll, two complaints from Sitamarhi district of Bihar state were received in the Commission alleging weaker sections intimidations. The same were forwarded to Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar for enquiry and report, who after enquiry found allegations unsubstantiated. Further, during the recent Lok Sabha elections, various new measures have been taken to ensure that weaker sections were not prevented from voting. In each polling station area vulnerability mapping was done and vulnerable voters were identified. This exercise was aimed at identifying the segment of electorate vulnerable to any threat, intimidation or interference in exercise of their electoral rights. Further, the persons responsible for this were also identified and preventive action was taken to ensure free and fair poll in each polling station of the State. Sector Magistrates/Zonal Magistrates were appointed to track these areas and to inform the district authorities/ Observers to check any instance of malpractice. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that 3,09,792 persons were bound down in the State under section 107/116 of Cr. P.C. during the Lok Sabha General Election 2009.