

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1085
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012
SEPARATE VOTER LIST
Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

- (a) whether separate voter lists are used for election of Gram Panchayat/Assembly Elections and Parliamentary elections in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is an urgent need to use the same voter list for Gram Panchayat/ Assembly and Parliamentary elections;
- (d) if so, the problems being faced in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for use of single voter list for elections in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation and revision of electoral rolls for elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies is the function entrusted to the Election Commission by article 324(1) of the Constitution. However, superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities has been entrusted to the State Election Commissions under articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution.

Further, section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides that for every Assembly constituency there is an electoral roll and section 13D(1) of the said Act provides that the electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency, other than a parliamentary constituency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir or in a Union Territory not having a Legislative Assembly, consist of the electoral rolls for all assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency.

The preparation and revision of electoral rolls for Panchayat and Municipality elections are regulated by the State laws. Most of the State laws provide that the electoral rolls prepared by the Election Commission of India for Parliamentary and Assembly elections should be the basis for the preparation and revision of rolls for local bodies elections. Whereas, in some of the States, it is further provided that the Parliamentary and Assembly rolls will be adopted in toto for local bodies elections, but in certain other States, the Parliamentary and Assembly rolls are to be adopted only as the draft rolls for local body elections and they are subjected to further modifications by way of inclusions and deletions.

(c) to (e): It is for the State Governments, by law, to adopt the electoral rolls of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies for local bodies elections.