

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2994
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
POLICY ON ELECTION EXPENDITURE
Singh Shri Sukhdev

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy regarding election expenditure deposited by all the candidates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated and implemented any policy to minimize the black money used in election; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): Under section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every candidate at an election is required to keep, either by himself or by his election agent, a separate and correct account of all expenditure in connection with the election, incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent. Further, under section 78 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every contesting candidate at an election is required to lodge with the District Election Officer, a true copy of account of his election expenditure kept by him or his election agent within thirty days of declaration of result. The procedure for maintaining and lodging the account are prescribed under rules, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 90 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961. Based on these provisions, the Election Commission issues instructions for monitoring of the election expenditure incurred by candidates.

(c): The Election Commission has intimated that it is seriously concerned about the growing influence of Black Money in elections. The Election Commission held a meeting on the 4 October, 2010, with all recognized political parties and discussed issues related to use of Money Power etc. The Commission has also taken several measures including opening of separate division in the Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observer, Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams to keep vigil over movement of cash, liquor and other items during elections.- Media Certification and Monitoring Committee to keep a watch on media advertisements and suspected cases of paid news, Maintenance of Shadow Observation Register in respect of each candidate to observe underestimation of expenditure, Video Surveillance Team to oversee major items of expenditure, opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving Income Tax Department to keep vigil over movement of cash in the constituency during election process. The Election Commission has also issued instruction to all candidates and political parties not to make payments other than a/c payee cheque during election process.

(d) ; Does not arise.