

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3056
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
ELECTION IDENTITY CARDS
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission has completed the work related to Election Identity Cards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of poll booths in various States whose electorates have not yet received their Election Identity Cards and the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Election Commission is considering to conduct elections at all levels through Electronic Voting Machines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) and (b): The Election Commission has intimated that the term 'completion of work' may not be rightly associated with the preparation/updation of electoral rolls and Elector photo identity cards (EPIC) as the process of issuing EPIC is a continuous exercise; names of new electors are added every year and those of the persons who have died have to be deleted. Further, on account of migration of persons from one place to another, changes in EPIC need to be carried out based on their applications. However, it has been the Commission's endeavour to achieve the target of 100% EPIC- coverage. At present the coverage of EPIC in the country is 92.41%. It may be seen that approximately 8% electors are yet to be issued voter identity card. The Commission is making every effort to issue Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) to all residual electors as expeditiously as possible. As on date, all the States and Union Territories except Assam have Elector Photo Identity Cards and Photo Electoral Rolls.

(c): The Election Commission has intimated that at present, electorates of most of the polling booths in the country (except Assam where EPIC is not yet implemented) have been issued EPIC. The total number of general electors in the country is 75,84,83,294, out of these 70,09,27,249 electors have been issued EPIC. A State-wise statement, showing the percentage coverage of EPIC in all the States/Union territories is enclosed herewith as Annexure. Polling booth wise number of electors who have not yet received EPIC is not available in the Election Commission.

(d): No, Madam. The Election Commission conducts elections for the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of the States/Union Territories, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and elections to the office of the President and the Vice-President. Out of the above, only elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States/Union Territories, Lok Sabha and few seats of Legislative Council of Jammu & Kashmir, for which Preferential System of voting is not used, are conducted through Electronic Voting Machines.

(e): Does not arise.