

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:94

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to carry out comprehensive electoral reforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Core Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Solicitor General has submitted its recommendations to the Government on the basis of inputs received from different quarters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the decisions taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which the Government is likely to initiate electoral reforms process in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 94 FOR ANSWER ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2012

With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee was constituted on 1 October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek K. Tankha, Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included (i) Decriminalisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and better Management of Elections; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; and (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who inter-alia included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. The details of these consultations have been put on the website of the Ministry of Law and Justice i.e. www.lawmin.nic.in. On the basis of the inputs received in these consultations, discussion with all political parties is contemplated. In view of the complexity of the subject, it is not possible to lay down any rigid time-frame in this regard.