

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1138
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the law to make funding to political parties more transparent;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to include expenditure from the political party funds under Purview of the law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether demands have been made to bring the political parties under the ambit of Right to Information Act (KYI); and (g) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b) : The Representation of People Act, 1951 contains provisions to deal with funding of political parties. Sub-section (1) of section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that the political parties are required to prepare a report of all the contributions received by them exceeding Rs. 20,000/- in a financial year and required to submit the said report to the Election Commission. Rule 85 B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 provides that the report for a financial year under sub-section (1) of section 29C shall be submitted in form 24A by the treasurer of a political party or any other person authorised by the political party in this behalf, before the due date for furnishing a return of its income of that financial year under section 139 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, to the Election Commission. The Election Commission forwarded a proposal to the Government of India to amend Form 24A. The proposal inter alia includes provision for declaration by political parties about receipt of funds from foreign sources, Government bodies, etc., for annexing certificate from trusts regarding making contributions, mentioning total amount of contribution received by political parties during the year and making it compulsory for all political parties to file contribution reports including 'Nil' reports by political parties even if there is 'nil' contributions in excess of Rs. 20,000/- from a company or person. The matter is being examined.

(c) : At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) & (e): Do not arise

(f) & (g) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.