

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3340

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012

OPINION POLLS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ban the opinion polls and also ban advertisements appearing in the print media on the day of polls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; {
- (d) whether the Government has studied the restrictions on opinion/exit polls in other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A proposal of the Election Commission for putting ban on opinion polls during elections has been received. Since this issue has a direct bearing on the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression guaranteed under article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, it would be imperative that the issue is discussed and deliberated at length before initiating any legislative measures in this regard. In view of the complexity of the subject, it is not possible to lay down any rigid time-frame in this regard.

(d): No, Madam. (e): Does not arise.