

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
ELECTORAL REFORMS
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes or has any proposal to carry out comprehensive electoral reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Election Commission has given any suggestions/ recommendations for electoral reforms in the country and if so, the details of the suggestions/ recommendations of the Election Commission in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has consulted all the stakeholders in this regard; and;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

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

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 159 for answering on the 7th March, 2013

(a) to (e) The Government of India has been receiving suggestions/ recommendations on electoral reforms from time to time from various bodies including the Election Commission of India, political parties, eminent persons in public life and deliberations of the Legislatures and various public bodies. In the light of the experience gained during elections and suggestions received from time to time, the successive Governments have taken measures, including amendment in elections laws, to bring electoral reforms.

With a view to carry out further reforms, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission of India with a request to consider the issue after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stake holders and suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law. The Law Commission has been requested to give concrete suggestions by April this year. The Election Commission has offered its views on some aspect of the suggested electoral reforms. On receipt of the recommendation of the Law Commission, matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders.