

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1672
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
AMENDMENT IN RPA
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in the Representation of People's Act, 1951 to decriminalise politics in view of the allegations of corruptions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c) Sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provide that a person convicted of certain offences specified therein, which inter alia includes the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (49 of 1988), shall be disqualified, where the convicted person is sentenced to " (i) only fine, for a period of six years from the date of such conviction; (ii) imprisonment, from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years after his release. The Electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process. The issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission of India on 16th January, 2013 and has been requested to submit its concrete suggestions within three months. On receipt of the recommendations, matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders. The Government remains committed to bringing forward a purposive agenda for electoral reforms based upon a broader political consensus.