

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2907
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS AT POLLING STATIONS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court had advised the Election Commission on January,2005 for deployment of para military forces and installation of CCTV cameras at polling stations to check irregularities committed by employees deployed on election duty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken in this regard as on date as per the direction of the Hon`ble Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 11.01.2005 in Civil Appeal No. 9228 of 2003 (Janak Singh vs Ram Das Rai and Others) has suggested that the Election Commission should consider posting of some personnel of Para-Military force inside the polling booth in addition to the law and order duty outside the polling booths. Some cameras should be installed in the polling booths to keep vigilance on the local staff on duty.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In pursuance of the above said judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India vide letter No. 464/INST/2008/EPS dated 21.01.2009 issued instructions to all the Chief Electoral Officers of all states and Union Territories that in the polling stations where CPF personnel have been deployed, one of the CPF personnel shall be stationed at the entrance of the polling station in such a manner that he can have unrestricted view of the polling procedure in the polling station. The Election Commission has also directed that videography of the poll proceedings may be carried out inside such polling stations where Observer considers it necessary. However, proper care shall be taken to ensure that while doing the videography it does not violate the secrecy of vote.

(e) Does not arise.