

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

CASTE BASED RALLIES

Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Allahabad High Court has recently banned caste-based rallies in Uttar Pradesh and issued notices to the State Government/Central Government, Election Commission and some of the political parties;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government/Election Commission has taken cognizance of the orders of the Allahabad High Court;
- (c) if so, whether the Election Commission will ensure ban on caste-based rallies across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) The Election Commission of India has intimated that recently, a copy of the petition filed in the matter has been received from its counsel in the High Court of Allahabad at Lucknow Bench. Order dated 11.07.2013 passed in the matter by the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad has been down loaded by the Election Commission from the High court's web-site. In the said order, the Hon'ble High Court has directed that "Thus, even though there is no direct and specific prayer, in exercise of powers under article 226 of the Constitution in terms of the last general prayer, till the Election Commission takes suitable measures after participating in the instant court proceedings, we issue notice to the respondents with direction that there shall be no caste based rallies with political motive throughout the State of U.P. till the next date of hearing". The Election Commission has also intimated that it is examining the judgment passed by the Hon'ble High Court. Necessary action on the part of the Commission in the matter before the High Court will be taken in due course. The next date of hearing is 13-08-2013. Thus, the matter is sub-judice.