

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2083  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013  
VOTER ID CARDS  
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) whether Voter Identity (ID) cards have been issued to all the electorates in the country in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether any advisory has been issued by the Union Government to the States in this regard and if so; the details thereof;
- (d) whether the voter ID cards, issued by the Election Commission, are not being accepted as an ID proof and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) and (b): The Election Commission of India has informed that almost 95% of the total electors in the country have been issued Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs). The Election Commission has further informed that 100% or nearly 100% coverage has been achieved in 27 States/Union territories. The reason for low coverage in Assam, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir is that there was local opposition to EPIC in these States. However, now the local people have been convinced and the programme is being implemented at a fast pace. The reason for low coverage in other States is remoteness and difficulty in outreach in certain regions. The Election Commission has also informed that it is making efforts to achieve 100% coverage as soon as possible. A Statement showing the status of the EPIC issued to electors in the States/Union territories as furnished by the Election Commission is attached as Annexure.

(c): The Government of India has not issued any advisory to the States. However, the Election Commission has informed that it has asked Chief Electoral Officer of all States to issue EPICs to all electors.

(d) and (e): To accept EPIC as an identity proof by any agency is open for that agency to decide. The sole purpose of issuance of EPIC to an elector by the Electoral Registration officer is to establish the identity of an elector at the polling station at the time of poll.