

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2066

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014

EXPENDITURE IN ELECTIONS

Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar;Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

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

(a) the details of money seized by the Police/ Election Commission during the recently concluded Assembly Elections in Maharashtra and Haryana;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof along with the action taken thereon by the Governments; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to restrict the election expenditure of a candidate and to check the influence of money power and use of black money during elections in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a): The Election Commission has informed that details of cash seized by Police/Income Tax Department during recently concluded Assembly Elections in Maharashtra and Haryana are Rs. 19.78 Crore and Rs.4.68 Crore respectively.

(b): The Election Commission has informed that if the cash seized by the Flying Squad and Static Surveillance Team and the Police has any links with candidate or party. Police complaint has been filed and the seized amount is dealt as per order of the Court, and if the seized cash is not linked to any criminality, it is handed over to Income tax Department for necessary action under Income Tax Laws.

(c): The Election Commission has informed that the Commission is seriously concerned about the growing influence of 'Black Money' in elections. The Commission held meetings on 4th October 2010 with all recognized political parties and discussed issues related to use of 'Money Power' and issued comprehensive instructions for control of money power during recent elections. The measures taken by Commission include opening of separate division in the Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observers, deployment of Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams to keep vigil over movement of cash linked with candidates or political parties, or items of bribe meant for inducement of electors, liquor and other illicit items during elections and their seizure, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee to keep a watch on media advertisements and suspected cases of paid news. Maintenance of Shadow Observation Register and Folder of evidence in respect of each candidate, Video Surveillance Teams to oversee major items of expenditure, opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving the Income Tax Department to keep vigil over movement of cash through the airports, hotels, financial brokers etc. in the Constituency during election process. The Commission has also issued instructions to all candidates and political parties to avoid cash transactions during election process. The Commission has issued transparency guidelines for the political parties vide its letter No.76/PPEMS/Transparency/2013 dated 29th August 2014 in which it asked all political parties not to incur expenditure in cash above Rs.20,000/- (excepting certain exempted payments as mentioned in the guidelines) and not to receive donation without name and address of the donor (excepting hundi collection during public rally). It also prohibits parties from cash payment to the candidates.