

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4903

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015

ELECTORAL ROLLS WITH AADHAAR CARD

Ering Shri Ninong;Patel Shri Devji Mansingram;Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh;Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) has taken decision to link the Electoral Roll Database with Aadhaar number in the country and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (b) whether the ECI proposes to replace the existing voter identity cards with any new type of cards and if so, the details thereof along with the purposes for which the new card is likely to be recognised/used;
- (c) whether the ECI proposes to introduce bio-metric voting machine consequent upon linking of Electoral Roll Database with Aadhaar number and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the ECI has any data regarding number of fake voter ID cards/ duplicate ID cards and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the mechanism adopted by the ECI to address the said issue and prevent recurrence thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The Election Commission has stated that, with the objective of removing multiple entries/ duplicate entries/incorrect entries from the electoral roll so as to get error- free and pure electoral rolls, it has launched a nationwide programme named 'National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP)' on 3rd March 2015. Linking and authentication of Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) data of electors with Aadhaar data is one of the optional activities of the programme. The programme is going on in all the States/UTs. The present status of Aadhaar numbers collected and fed in t software application is attached as Annexure-I.

(b): The Commission has stated that, with a view to improving the quality of EPIC, it has directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) of States/UTs to issue replacement PVC-EPIC on demand on the basis of genuine reasons like loss of EPIC due to natural calamities, shifting of elector from one place to another, loss of EPIC, mutilation etc. EPIC is issued to an elector under rule 28 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 by the Electoral Registration Officer with the sole purpose of identification of an elector at the time of poll at the polling station so as to avoid impersonation.

(c): The Election Commission has stated that no such proposal is under consideration.

(d): The Election Commission has stated that as per the provisions of Section 17 and 18 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, no person is to be registered more than once in any constituency; and no person to be registered in the electoral roll for more than one constituency, respectively. In case, instances of making false declaration while registering oneself in the Electoral Roll come to the notice of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) concerned, appropriate action for deletion of duplicate/multiple entries and confiscation of EPIC is taken following due procedure prescribed by Law.

(e): The Commission has taken the following measures to remove the duplicate/multiple entries from the electoral rolls:-

Running of de-duplication software before revision of electoral rolls

House to House verification and collection of information regarding dead/shifted electors by Booth Level Officer

Sharing of draft electoral rolls and final rolls with recognised political parties

Uploading of electoral rolls at CEO's website and displaying of the same at ERO's offices and at designated locations for public scrutiny.

Launching of NERPAP has also been done with this purpose to weed out duplicate/multiple entries in the electoral rolls.