

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4614  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014  
ELECTORAL REFORMS TO CHECK MONEY POWER  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the influence of money power in Parliamentary and assembly polls is on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Election Commission has suggested some measures to control the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof: and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): There is a perception that the influence of money power in parliamentary and legislative elections is increasing. The Government and the Election Commission are seriously concerned about the role of money and muscle power in elections.

(b) to (d): The Government of India has been receiving suggestions/ recommendations on electoral reforms from time to time from various bodies including the Election Commission, political parties, eminent persons, State Legislatures and public bodies. With a view to curbing and eliminating the influence of money power in elections and in the light of the experience gained during elections and suggestions received from time to time, the successive Governments have taken measures to bring electoral reforms by amending the elections laws.

To carry out further reforms and with a view inter-alia to eliminate the use of money power in elections, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission with a request to consider the issue after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stake holders and suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law. The recommendations of the Law Commission are yet to be received. On receipt of the recommendations, matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders towards a suitable decision in the matter at the earliest.

The measures already taken by Election Commission include opening of separate division in the Election 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 elections, liquor and other illicit items during election 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 Team 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 Election Commission has also issued instruction to all candidates and political parties to avoid cash transactions during election process.