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Title: Shri P. Karunakaran made a submission regarding review of the system of voting through electronic machines.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to raise in this august House an important issue concerning election reforms which has been discussed throughout the country.

Tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) is a serious issue which needs immediate attention and an appropriate inquiry is sought to look into the matter. It is not only a big threat to our democracy but also a fraudulent act with the sentiments of the voters also.

Madam Speaker, reportedly a voter-verifiable paper audit trail machine attached to an EVM in Bhind District of Madhya Pradesh during a demonstration has shown that the vote had gone to one party, that is, BJP, whose symbol was placed against number one and when a different number was pressed, the result was same. As per the media reports, the incident took place when the State Chief Electoral Officer was conducting a review of the preparations for the Assembly by-election due to be held in Bhind.

Madam Speaker, a demand for an alternative mechanism to EVM has long been raised which has further supported with the recent incidents. In the last Assembly elections also, a number of issues has been raised with regard to the same.

In a country like India, the democracy prevails and voters cast their votes to elect their representatives to raise their issues and contribute in formulating laws in Assemblies as well as in the Parliament. But, due to the tampering with EVMs, their right to choose their representatives, has widely been shattered as they are feeling duped by these machines.

In order to save the very essence of the democracy, an in-depth independent inquiry may be conducted to find out the issue relating to the tampering of EVMs. Meanwhile, until the mechanism is restored and found...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. A. Sampath, Shri P.K. Biju, Adv. Joice George, Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar and Shri Mullappally Ramachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, whatever the hon. Member, Shri P. Karunakaran Ji, has placed before this august House is totally far from the truth and misleading. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, whatever incident happened in that State, was only a presentation and there the respective officers themselves have given a statement that it is totally far from the truth. Today, if there is a best mechanism in the country for electoral purposes, it is EVM. When they win the elections in Kerala, they want EVM. When some other Party wins elections in some other State, they say EVM is good. But, when Bharatiya Janata Party wins elections all over the country, they want to discredit the victory of Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Madam, they have lost the faith of the people. People have rejected them and to cover that up, they are raising this bogey of EVM issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Let there be an investigation.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Karadi Sanganna.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, you are not Shri Karadi Sanganna. He is there. How are you standing?