

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Government have not conducted any such study specifically. However, country-wide data collected during the Sixth All India Educational Survey have broadly indicated the existing infrastructural deficiencies at various levels of educational institutions. The details

are given in the enclosed Statement. These have been circulated so that the required remedial measures can be taken. Specific actions would also be considered in discussions with the State Governments in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) which is a deliberative body comprising of Education Ministers of all States/UTs and prominent educationists.

*Statement*

*Percentage of Schools having Physical facilities in Urban Areas*

Categories of Schools	Management	Drinking Water	Urinals	Lavatories	Pacca Bldg.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Primary	Govt.	46.87	37.69	24.51	65.16
	Local Body	61.51	48.77	37.19	70.72
	Pvt. Aided	81.89	75.55	60.59	66.48
	Pvt. Unaided	95.68	92.81	84.61	84.79
Upper Primary	Govt.	65.17	58.59	46.60	70.63
	Local Body	81.31	72.97	59.49	84.71
	Pvt. Aided	90.76	88.59	75.58	72.58
	Pvt. Unaided	96.65	95.54	89.35	87.56
Secondary	Govt.	85.27	83.80	73.61	72.59
	Local Body	89.98	85.66	77.52	80.72
	Pvt. Aided	96.50	96.17	89.47	84.31
	Pvt. Unaided	97.14	96.59	91.12	86.70
Higher Secondary	Govt.	93.89	94.21	86.53	84.56
	Local Body	97.19	96.79	92.59	90.98
	Pvt. Aided	98.56	98.23	95.68	92.71
	Pvt. Unaided	98.25	98.30	94.94	88.78

Sources : Sixth All India Educational Survey, National Tables Volume II, Schools and Physical Facilities.

**Electoral Reforms**

\*73. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI A.C. JOS

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any legislation to bring reforms in the electoral laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals and suggestions made to the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to consider all the pending proposals before introduction of Bill regarding reforms in the electoral law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) : A set of 24 proposals on electoral reforms was identified by the Government for discussions with leaders of various political parties. The gist of these proposals is given in the enclosed Statement. The first 17 of these 24 proposals were discussed in the meeting held on 22.05.1998 with leaders of various political parties. In the meeting of political parties, a 7-Member Committee headed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament, was constituted to suggest concrete measures for State funding of candidates belonging to recognised political parties and other related issues. The Committee is to give its report by the end of August 1998. The recommendations of the Committee and the remaining

proposals would thereafter be discussed with political parties and the Government would consider introducing a Bill to give effect to such proposals on which consensus emerges amongst political parties.

### Statement

#### Gist of Additional Proposals on Electoral Reforms

##### A. Candidates

1. Lowering the age of candidates contesting elections to the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha from 25 years to 21 years and in case of elections to the Legislative Councils and Council of States from 30 years to 25 years.
2. Restriction on contesting election from more than one constituency.
3. Automatic disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practice.
4. Enhancement of required minimum number of valid votes polled to save security deposit from "one-sixth" to "one-fourth".

##### B. Political Parties

5. Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and audit thereof by agencies specified by the Election Commission.
6. Ban on donations by companies to political parties.
7. Registration and De-registration of political parties—strengthening of existing provisions.
8. Regulating reservation and allotment of election symbols by a law of Parliament.

##### C. Rotation of Seats

9. Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes candidates.
10. Rotation of general seats in certain North Eastern States where majority of seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

##### D. Election Expenses

11. The expenditure incurred by a political party etc., to be included in the election expenses of a candidate for purposes of ceiling on election expenses.
12. Empowering Election Commission to fix ceiling on election expenses before every general election.

##### E. State Funding

13. State Funding of elections - extent and manner thereof.

##### F. Electoral System

14. Change of present electoral system to

Majoritarian system/List system/Mixed system/any other system.

15. Making voting compulsory.

##### G. Model Code of Conduct

16. Statutory backing to provisions of Part- VII of the Model Code of Conduct.

##### H. Anti-Defection Law

17. Amendment to Anti-Defection Law.

##### I. Enhancement of Power of Election Commission

18. Empowering Election Commission to countermand an election on report from any Election Observer in addition to Returning Officer.
19. Empowering Election Commission to issue instructions and to make recommendations in connection with elections.

##### J. Election Commission and its Machinery

20. Mobilisation of employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government etc., for election duties as also to provide that employees of such bodies including local authorities could also be deployed for election duties outside their State.
21. Mode of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
22. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners to be made ineligible for further appointment under the Government.
- 23.(i) Independent Secretariat for Election Commission of India on the lines of Lok Sabha Secretariat; and  
(ii) Whether the expenses of the Election Commission should be "charged" on Consolidated Fund of India.
24. Chief Electoral Officer of every State exclusively for election work.

##### Development of Western Ghats

\*74. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the details of Overseas Development Agency (ODA) funds received for the development of Western Ghats during the last five year;

(b) the details of ODA funds utilised by the Government, State-wise;