

Report of Committee on Electoral Reforms

10471. SHRI SHEO SHARAN VARMA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee constituted by Government for electoral reforms has given its report; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee are given below. These recommendations are presently under consideration of the Government.

STATEMENT

Main Recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms

1. The Election Commission to be a three member body. The appointment of Chief Election Commissioner to be in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. The CEC to be consulted for appointment of other Members.
2. A fresh delimitation on the basis of 1981 census, Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.
3. Introduction of multi-purpose photo identity cards.
4. No individual to be allowed to contest from more than two constituencies.
5. Non-serious candidates to be discouraged. Security deposit of independent candidates to be raised. Forfeiture of security deposit for failure to secure less than 1/4th of the votes polled.
6. Statutory backing for important provisions of model Code of Conduct.
7. Use of electronic voting machines in all future elections.
8. A series of legislative measures to be undertaken to eradicate booth capturing, rigging and intimidation of voters.
9. State funding in kind to a limited extent to recognised political parties, to begin with.
10. Plying of automobiles, carrying of firearms, sale and distribution of liquor on poll day to be electoral offences.
11. Disqualification under Anti-defection law to be restricted to voluntary resignation and voting or abstention against party whip only in the case of vote of confidence, money bill or vote of thank to the President. President or Governor to decide the issue of disqualification after obtaining the Election Commission's opinion.
12. Constitution of an Expert Committee to go further into the question of change of the present electoral system.
13. A standing Committee to the Parliament to go into all electoral matters.