

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****Conference of State Electoral Officers**

\*121. **SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:**  
**SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:**

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

(a) whether the Election Commission had recently convened a Conference of Chief Electoral Officers in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issue discussed and the decisions taken;

(c) whether the conference has recommended the use of electronic voting machines in all future elections, issue of multi-purpose identity cards to all voters and delimitation of constituencies in the country during 1990-91; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the estimated expenditure involved in the implementation of the recom-

mendations?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the issue discussed and the decisions made in the conference of Chief Electoral Officers are given below.

(c) The consensus in the meeting was in favour of use of electronic voting machines at future elections. No decision was taken in regard to issue of multi-purpose identity cards to voters in the country. The question of delimitation of constituencies in the country during 1990-91 was not discussed in the said Conference.

(d) It is estimated that a total number of 6 lakh electronic voting machines will be required to cover all parliamentary constituencies in the country. The Election Commission has already procured 1.5 lakh machines at the cost of Rs. 75 crores and the remaining 4.5 lakh machines are estimated to cost about Rs. 225 crores.

## STATEMENT

*The issues discussed in the Conference of the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories held on 6th & 7th December, 1990 at Delhi*

S.No.	The issues discussed in the Conference	Decision taken
1	2	3
1.	Summary revision of electoral rolls	Summary revision of electoral (except Assam) with rolls ordered for all parliamentary constituencies . 1.1.91 as qualifying date.
2.	Setting up of polling stations-complaints-modifications.	Modifications as far as practicable are to be avoided in the lists for setting up of polling stations once approved.
3.	Appointment of Returning Officers and Asstt. Returning Officers.	Last minute changes of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers should be avoided.
4.	Bye-elections	All pending bye elections may be held soon after the final rolls are published.
5.	Electronic Voting Machines.	EVMs should be used at future elections.
6.	Multi-purpose identity cards.	No decision was taken.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b><i>The issues discussed in the Conference</i></b>	<b><i>Decision taken</i></b>
1	2	3
7.	Education of voters	An intensive programme for educating voters should be undertaken.
8.	Training of Officers Connected with elections.	Not discussed.
9.	Compensation to personnel who die or sustain injuries on election duty.	Compensation to be paid by the Election Commission over and above the one paid by other agencies to be uniform.
10.	Printing of forms and Hand books	Printing of forms to be completed by the end of April, 1991.
11.	Inspection of officer at Head quarters & District Election Offices.	Not discussed.
12.	Late submission of reports of reports by CEOs	All the Chief Electoral Officers are to take up with the District Elections Officers concerned the question of despatch of pending reports to the Commission.