

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.08.2010
ANSWERED ON
ELECTORAL REFORMS .

783

Shri Shantaram Naik

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms;
- (b) the areas in which these reforms have been suggested;
- (c) the reforms accepted by Government in principle; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (d): The Election Commission of India has been making suggestions relating to electoral reforms on different aspects to the Government from time to time. In July, 2004 the Commission sent a set of 22 proposals on different aspects of electoral reforms. Out of them, the Government accepted five proposals and enacted the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2009, amending the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Representation of the People Act, 1951. The said amendments are as follows: —

(I) the Representation of the People Act, 1950: - Appointment of the appellate authority within the district against the orders of the electoral registration officers (amendment of section 24);

(II) the Representation of the People Act, 1951:—

(i) simplification of procedure for disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practices (specifying a time limit in section 8A);

(ii) increase in the security deposit of the candidates nominated for elections (amendment of section 34),

(iii) inclusion in section 123(7) of all officials appointed in connection with the conduct of elections so as to bring them within the ambit of corrupt practices, if they indulge in furtherance of the prospects of the candidates at elections; and

(iv) restricting the publication of results of all exit polls by whatever means till the last poll in an election is held, by insertion of new sections 126A and 126B.