

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 07.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**ELECTORAL REFORMS**

144

Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that elections have become a source of corruption and malpractices;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that apart from money power, caste power and muscle power are also unscrupulously used to win elections; and
- (c) if so, what steps are being taken for radical electoral reforms?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a)to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.144 for answer on the 7th March, 2011

(a) to (c): Though there is no specific data available to indicate that the elections have become a source of corruption and malpractices, yet the Government and the Election Commission of India are concerned about the influence of money, caste and muscle power in elections in recent times. The Election Commission has taken various measures to control influence of money power in elections. These measures were implemented in the recently held General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2010, and simultaneous by-election to Banka Lok Sabha Constituency. The Election Commission has stated that the Commission has decided to implement the same mechanism with greater thrust in the forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Considering the impact of the monitoring mechanism of Election Expenditure as reflected in the feedbacks in the Bihar Assembly Election, 2010, the Election Commission stated that the Commission has decided to implement the same mechanism with greater thrust in the forthcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry taking into consideration the state specific requirements in dealing with the menace of money power.

With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on 1st October, 2010 to recommend to the government concrete ways in which our electoral system can be strengthened. The Legislative Department in co-sponsorship with the Election Commission of India conducted six regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Bengaluru, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who inter-alia included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. A National Consultation is also proposed to be held at New Delhi. On the basis of the inputs received or as may be received in all these consultations, legislative process as may be considered necessary will be initiated by the Government in due course.