

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
NATIONAL VOTERS DAY

1177

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 25 January has been declared as National Voters' Day by the Election Commission of India;
- (b) if so, whether this information was not available on its website, even after 15days of this announcement;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the budget allocation made and activities planned for this day?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

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

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1177 for answer on the 7th March, 2011

(a)to (d): Yes, Sir. The Election Commission of India has informed that the information was given through a Press Note dated 22nd January, 2011 which was also put on the Commission's website. The Commission has further stated that no separate fund has been allocated for this purpose. Expenditure on celebration of National Voters' Day on 25th January, every year, shall be met from the budget provision made for preparation of Electoral Rolls which is shared on 50-50 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments.

The following are the main activities on the National Voters' Day:-

(i)The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in a brief ceremony/ public function will handover Election Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to the newly registered voters who have attained the age of 18 years on 1st January of the year.

(ii)The newly enrolled electors will also be given a badge with the slogan "Proud to be a voter - Ready to vote" during the felicitation ceremony along with their EPIC.

(iii) The DEOs (Collectors/ DMs) will organize similar events at the District headquarters, in association with Panchayat organisations, academic institutions, civil society groups, media etc. where EPIC will be distributed among new voters of the local Polling Station areas, pledge administered and badges given. Side by side, several interactive, educational and consultation (IEC) programmes would be taken up to popularise electoral participation and democratic practices.

(iv)The CEOs of the concerned State/Union territories would organise events in their respective capitals in association with Media, Civil Society, Opinion Groups, State Administration, State Election Commission, etc. where again EPIC will be distributed among new voters of the local Polling Station area, pledge to be administered to all present and badges would be distributed.