

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

1182

Shri Nand Kumar Sai

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

- (a) whether Government has constituted a Core Committee for electoral reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and reference of the Committee;
- (c) whether the Committee has stated the process of study; and
- (d) if so, the details of the outcome of the meetings, so far, held by the Committee in various parts of the country?

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.1182 for answer on the 7th March, 2011

(a): A Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek K. Tankha, Additional Solicitor General. The details have been put on the website of Ministry of Law and Justice –www.lawmin.nic.in.

(b)and (c): The terms of reference of the Core-Committee inter alia include examination of the current issues in our election system in consultation with the stakeholders and suggest measures on the following issues:-

(i) Criminalisation of Politics

(ii) Funding of Elections

(iii) Conduct and Better Management of Elections

(iv) Regulation of Political Parties

(v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties

(vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law

In doing so, the Committee shall examine the recommendations made by the Election Commission of India and other Commissions set up by various bodies of the Government of India in the past. The Committee shall also hold regional consultations to elicit the views of a cross section of people from across the country. The Committee shall follow up regional consultations with a national consultation to be held in Delhi.

(d): The Legislative Department with co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted six regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Bengaluru on the 12th December, 2010, 9th 16th, 30th January, 5th and 13th February, 2011 respectively, 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.