

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2526
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 10th AUGUST, 2023
BYE-ELECTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA**

2526. **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

the reasons for Government not announcing the bye-elections in Maharashtra even after considerable time has passed?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) provides the time limit for filling vacancies referred to in sections 147, 149, 150 and 151, and states that a bye-election for filling any vacancy referred to in any of the said sections should be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy, provided that nothing contained in the section would apply if (a) the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy was less than one year; or (b) the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period.

The ECI has stated that vacancies have arisen from 34-Pune and 13-Chandrapur Parliamentary Constituencies as on 29.03.2023 and 30.05.2023, respectively and deadlines for filling up vacancies are 28.09.2023 and 29.11.2023.

Further, the Commission has informed that it considers all relevant aspects such as law and order situation in the State, school/college examinations, festivals, weather conditions, holidays under the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881 (26 of 1881) and availability of Central Armed Police Forces and Electronic Voting Machine/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail etc. before finalising the dates of poll and counting while announcing any election.
