

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 905

ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 27th JULY, 2023

Simultaneous Elections in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies

905. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena :

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to hold the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly elections simultaneously;*
- (b) if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) whether Government has held consultations with the Election Commission of India in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;*
- (d) the details of the pros and cons of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in the country; and*
- (e) whether these elections are held simultaneously in any other country in the world and if so, the details thereof?*

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)**

(a) to (c): The Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stake-holders including Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th Report. The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out practicable road map and framework for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

(d): The Simultaneous Elections would result in huge saving to the public exchequer, avoidance of replication of effort on part of administrative and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections and bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns. Further, asynchronous Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections (including bye-election) result in prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on developmental and welfare programmes. However, major impediments/imperatives for synchronisation for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections are as follows:

- (i) Bringing amendments in not less than five articles of Constitution, namely, article 83 relating to duration of Houses of Parliament, article 85 relating to dissolution of the House of the People by the President, article 172 relating to duration of the State Legislatures, article 174 relating to dissolution of the State Legislatures and article 356 relating to the imposition of President's Rule in the States.
- (ii) Obtaining consensus of all political parties.
- (iii) Having regard to the federal structure of our system of governance, it is imperative that consensus of all State Governments is also obtained.
- (iv) Requirement of additional number of EVMs/VVPATs, which would cost a huge amount, might be in thousands of crores. Considering that life of machine is only fifteen years, this would imply that machine would be used for about three or four times in its life span, entailing huge expenditure in its replacement after every fifteen years.
- (v) Requirement of additional polling personnel and security forces.

(e): The Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 79th report had highlighted that in South Africa, elections to national as well as provincial legislatures are held simultaneously for five years and municipal election are held two years later. In

Sweden election to national legislature (Riksdag) and provincial legislature/county council (landsting) and local bodies/municipal Assemblies (Kommunfullmaktige) are held on a fixed date i.e. second Sunday in September for four years. Further, in U.K. the term of the Parliament is governed by the Fixed-term Parliament Act, 2011.
