

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1397
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

DELETION OF NAMES IN SIR

1397 SMT. RAJATHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressing concerns regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls;
- (b) whether Government has examined the large-scale deletion of names from electoral rolls, especially among the minority communities and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and community-wise; and
- (c) the number of objections received against such deletions, State-wise and community-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): It has come to the notice that the United Nations Special Rapporteur, has highlighted the large-scale removal of the names from electoral rolls through a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process led by the Election Commission of India (ECI), particularly in state of West Bengal. The ECI under article 324 of the Constitution, is responsible for the supervision, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections for Parliament and State Legislatures. In past the process of SIR has been carried out by the ECI. Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has upheld the ECI's power to conduct SIR. Over the years rapid urbanization, migration for education or employment, and other socio-economic changes have led to frequent shifting of residence. Many electors register in a new constituency and their names continue to be on the prior rolls also, resulting

in duplicate or incorrect entries. In order to address these issues SIR is carried out by following the due process of law without prejudice to any group or community.

Further, the ECI, from time to time, has clarified that it carries out internal quality checks at each stage of SIR, including cross-verification of BLO enumeration through supervisory officers, random sample audits of deleted entries, and public disclosure of draft and final rolls to enable scrutiny by political parties and electors. Grievances received during the claims and objections period are examined and, where found valid, appropriate action is taken before finalisation of the roll.

Even after the finalisation of the Electoral rolls, appeal can be preferred with the concerned District Magistrate and thereafter with the concerned Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
