

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *364

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 21st MARCH, 2018

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

***364. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government/Election Commission is aware of the rampant cases of malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) being highlighted at various polling stations in different elections across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government/Election Commission thereto;
- (c) the details with regard to the cases of malfunctioning of EVMs found in the country during the last three years;
- (d) the details of private agencies involved in the maintenance of EVMs during the last five years, year and State-wise; and
- (e) the action plan to ensure higher security of EVMs?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NO. *364 DATED 21st MARCH, 2018

(a) to (e): The Election Commission has informed that a small percentage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) get defective during the poll process, which are replaced immediately without causing any disruption of the poll process. The Commission has further informed that between January, 2016 and upto State Assembly elections to Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura in 2018, a total of 4,61,587 Ballot Units and 4,05,478 Control Units were used in various elections, out of which 14,452 machines failed, averaging about 1.6%. This too was immediately replaced without affecting the election process. The Commission has also informed that no private agency is involved in maintenance of EVMs. Comprehensive technical and administrative safeguards have been put in place by the Commission to ensure the security of the EVMs.
