

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 6508
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 06th APRIL, 2018/
Chaitra 16,1940 (Saka)

Black Money Usage in Elections

6508. Sh. Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether black money is being used in elections and if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *the reaction of the Government thereon; and*
- (c) *the steps taken by the Government to check it?*

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a), (b) & (c)

The Government takes all appropriate measures to support the Election Commission in conducting free and fair elections including steps to curb usage of black money in elections.

The Election Commission of India has intimated that following steps are initiated in coordination with Government agencies to curb the use of money power during election :

1. Appointment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observers to monitor expenditure of candidates; Deployment of Video Surveillance teams to oversee major items of expenditure; Deployment of Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams to keep vigil over movement of cash linked with candidates or political parties, or items of bribe meant for inducement of electors, including liquors and drugs during elections. The Commission has also prescribed a Standard Operating Procedure for seizure of cash by the Flying Squads or Static Surveillance teams.
2. The Income tax Department through Investigation Directorates of Income tax of poll bound States/UTs coordinate with all enforcement agencies, General/Expenditure observers, officers of the Commission and also with various officers/teams engaged in Election Expenditure Monitoring.

3. Setting up of 24X7 Central Control Room by the Income-tax Department with toll free numbers and dedicated email IDs to keep vigil over movement of cash through the Airports, hotels, financial brokers etc. in the Constituency during the entire election process and take appropriate action as per Income-tax laws.
4. The Election Commission has issued instructions to all candidates and political parties to avoid cash transactions during elections process.
5. The Commission has also issued transparency guidelines for the political parties for not incurring expenditure in cash above Rs.20,000/- excepting specified payments. It also prohibits parties from making cash payment to the candidates.
6. The Government has notified the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 to cleanse the system of political funding in the country.