

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *25

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 2018

UNCONTESTED SEATS IN PANCHAYAT POLLS

***25. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had expressed its shock over the fact that 34 per cent of the seats at the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Panchayat level went uncontested in West Bengal and if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) Whether the Election Commission has received any complaints about candidates being prevented from filing nomination in such elections and if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the course of action the Government proposes to take to ensure that such undemocratic practices are not repeated in future and the elections at panchayat levels are conducted in a free and fair manner?

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (c) OF
THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *25 DATED 12TH
DECEMBER, 2018

(a) to (c): As per article 243K of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with elections to the Panchayats/Municipalities. The Election Commission of India has informed that the matter does not pertain to it.
