

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1527

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 19th DECEMBER, 2018

ACCREDITED POLITICAL PARTIES

†1527. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

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

- a) the number of political parties of National and State level granted accreditation by Election Commission at present;
- (b) the details of electoral reforms carried out during the past three years;
- (c) whether the Government has received the recommendations of cabinet level committee constituted under the Chairmanship of honourable Home Minister and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to make the above recommendations public; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)**

- (a) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (b) : Electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process that involve a major policy decisions in consultation with all stakeholders in the

matter. Following are some of the steps taken by the Government towards electoral reforms in recent years:-

- I. The Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in September, 2016 for simplifying the various forms appended thereto, *inter alia*, requiring the candidate to make a specific declaration about his citizenship and to affix his photo on the form, etc.
- II. The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in October, 2016 to facilitate electronic transmission of blank postal ballot to the service voters including armed forces personnel with a view to reducing the window of time available for receipt of marked postal ballot paper.
- III. The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in April, 2017 to amplify nomination Forms 2A to 2H, making it mandatory for candidates to disclose the source(s) of income of self and spouse and to make specific declarations relating to all disqualification provisions.
- IV. Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was amended by the Ministry of Finance through the Finance Act, 2017 whereby no donation exceeding two thousand rupees can be received by political parties otherwise than by an account payee cheque drawn on a bank or an account payee draft or use of electronic clearing system through a bank account or through electoral bonds.
- V. Form 26 appended to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 was amended in October, 2018 requiring the candidates to declare information about their source of income including that of their dependents, about contracts entered into with the appropriate Government and public company etc. and for publicizing information regarding criminal cases pending against them.

(c) to (e) : A Committee headed by the Hon'ble Home Minister had recommended proxy voting for overseas electors in addition to their existing facility of voting in person. A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for the purpose has been passed by the Lok Sabha and is pending consideration by Rajya Sabha at present.
