

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *260

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 17th MARCH, 2023

ELECTORAL REFORMS

***260. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is working out several electoral reforms such as deferring the demonstration/implementation of its recently developed prototype Remote Electronic Voting Machine (REVM) and the recent amendment to the election laws facilitating voter registration throughout the year;
- (b) if so, the details along with the implementation status thereof as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the timeline drawn for the electoral reforms to be undertaken in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(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. *260 DATED 17th MARCH, 2023**

(a) to (c): No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Further, the Government, after consultation with the Election Commission of India (ECI) has taken steps, from time to time, to bring electoral reforms to improve the existing electoral practices in the country. Recently, the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 (49 of 2021) was enacted, which *inter-alia*, provides for four qualifying dates *i.e.* 1st day of January, 1st day of April, 1st day of July and 1st day of October in a year for voter registration and now, an eligible Indian Citizen can submit application for getting registered in the electoral roll with reference to those dates. The provisions of the said Act have come into force on 01st August, 2022.

The electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process in order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country, no specific time line can be drawn in this regard.

The ECI has informed that a Concept Note on improving voter participation of domestic migrants using remote voting dated 28th December, 2022 was circulated by them to all National/State political parties *inter-alia* including matters like defining a 'Migrant voter', addressing the territorial concept, the method of remote voting and counting of votes, enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, setting up of controlled environment to ensure free and fair voting and so on. Subsequently, a discussion with the political parties was conducted on 16th January, 2023. The ECI has solicited written views/comments of the political parties by 28th February, 2023 on various legal, administrative and technological issues as contained in the Concept Note and beyond.
