

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 272**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**REMOTE VOTING MACHINE**

272. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:  
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) *whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) has developed a prototype multi constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machines (RVM) and proposes to introduce it for the upcoming election in the country and if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether the machines have capacity to handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth and if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *whether the ECI had called an all-party meeting to demonstrate and discuss the RVM for domestic migrant voters and solicited views of electorate for changes in legislation, election procedure and voting method;*
- (d) *if so, the details of the views expressed by various political parties in the said meeting and the outcome thereof;*
- (e) *whether the introduction of RVM would increase fake votes and if so, the manner in which the presiding officer will identify the genuinity of votes; and*
- (f) *whether the RVM is also proposed for the use of NRI voters and if so, the details thereof?*

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that M/s. Electronic Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) under the guidance of the ECI and the Technical Expert Committee of the ECI has developed a prototype of Multi Constituency Remote Electronic Voting

Machine (RVM). Further, the ECI has informed that they have not proposed to introduce the RVM for the upcoming election in the country.

- (b): The ECI has informed that the machines have capacity to handle multiple constituencies from one remote booth.
- (c) to (d): The ECI has circulated a Concept Note on improving voter participation of domestic migrants using remote voting dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 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 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The ECI has solicited written views/comments of the Political Parties by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 on various legal, administrative and technological issues as contained in the Concept Note and beyond.
- (e): The ECI has informed that the introduction of RVM would not increase fake votes. The prototype RVM developed by ECIL is a robust and stand-alone system based on the existing EVMs, under the guidance of the Technical Expert Committee. Independently, various statutes *viz.* the Representation of People Act, 1950 and the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Conduct of Election Rules, etc. and various guidelines and instructions of the ECI will ensure that the confirmation/genuineness of voter identity is verified.
- (f): The ECI has informed that the RVM is not proposed for the use of NRI voters.

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