

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2565**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

**ELECTION TO CANTONMENT BOARDS**

2565. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the elections to the Cantonments Boards were scheduled to be held on April 30, 2023 across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to hold election(s) ignoring the sizeable section of down-trodden people dwelling on/around defence land(s) who are also voters in assemblies/Parliamentary elections;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the decision and hold the election(s) to Cantonment Boards based on Universal Adult Franchise and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (e): The Central Government vide SRO No. 03(E) dated 17.02.2023 had notified 30.04.2023 as the date of polling for holding ordinary elections to 57 Cantonment Boards. The ibid SRO was rescinded vide SRO No. 4(E) dated 17.03.2023. It has been decided to consider to excise civil areas of certain Cantonments and merge them with neighboring municipalities in order to bring uniformity in municipal laws governing such areas and adjoining State Municipalities. In this regard, broad modalities for proposed excision have been shared with concerned State Governments for their comments. One Cantonment namely, Khasyol has already been denotified w.e.f 27.04.2023.

Elections to Cantonment Boards are held as per the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 2006 and the Cantonment Electoral Rules, 2007. In Pursuance of Order dated 27.09.2016 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 9730-9731 of 2016 arising out of SLP (C) No. 20687-20688 of 2016 titled Cantonment Board Panchmarhi Vs Gopal Das Kabra & Ors, Cantonment Boards have revised the electoral rolls by deleting the names of encroachers on defence land in terms of the directions given in the said Order.

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