

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3848

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Verification of Voting through EVMs

3848. Shrimati Sajda Ahmad:

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

- (a) the details of strategies adopted to verify the accuracy and integrity of the voting process through EVMs;
- (b) the details of the EVM models available with the Election Commission of India (ECI) for conducting voting in the upcoming General Election;
- (c) whether the ECI has disposed of the EVMs of Model M-1 and M-2 or they are to be used for conducting voting in the said Election; and
- (d) the security measures are put in place to prevent unauthorized access or manipulation of the EVMs?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS;
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that it has adopted elaborate strategies to verify the accuracy and integrity of the voting process through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). With the introduction of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) the ECI EVM system enables voters to immediately verify that their vote is cast as intended by observing the VVPAT ballot slip which contains the name, serial number, and symbol of the candidate for

whom vote is cast. The votes are counted as recorded in Control Unit. The correlation between the ballot slip printed by VVPAT and the vote recorded in the EVM is established statistically with a very high degree of confidence by tallying the electronic count of the Control Unit with the VVPAT slip count of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency /segment. The matter regarding mandatory verification of VVPAT slips count has already been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by its order dated 8th April, 2019. In pursuance of that order the ECI has been mandatorily verifying VVPAT slips of randomly selected 5 polling stations per assembly constituency/segment in Parliamentary constituency elections. Further, It is highlighted that apart from the above, verification of VVPAT slips is done at various stages of the election process in the presence of representatives of recognised political parties/candidates.

(b): The ECI has informed that the upcoming General Election will be held by M3 Model of EVMs & VVPATS.

(c): The ECI has informed that The destruction of Model M-1 & M- 2 EVMs (completed their economic life of 15 years) is under process. The same are not to be used in upcoming General Election.

(d): The ECI has informed that it has laid down complete technological measures as well as administrative and security procedures, which ensures no access to EVM/VVPAT to any unauthorised person. Due to these measures/ safeguards ECI EVMs are protected from any tampering/manipulation whether before the polls or during the polls, or after the polls, in storage or transportation from manufacturer to the State/District or vice-versa, or when transported from one state to another etc.
