

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3876

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2023

Reintroduction of Ballot System in Elections

3876. Shri Anto Antony:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation regarding reintroduction of ballot system in the upcoming assembly elections and general election;
- (b) if so, the details and the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has sent nearly six lakh faulty voting machines to laboratories to rectify the fault; and
- (d) if so, the details including major fault of machines identified, if any, so far?

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) and (b): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that some representations have been received regarding reintroduction of ballot system. The ECI has been conducting elections using EVMs since 1982. The use of Electronic Voting Machine/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (EVM/VVPAT) is legally sanctioned by the Parliament in the form of clear provisions in the Representation of the People Act 1951 (43 of 1951) and corresponding Rules and have also been

subjected to Judicial Reviews in number of cases up to Honourable Supreme Court of India. There is no proposal to go back to ballot system.

(c) and (d): As per information provided by the ECI, First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMS and VVPATS is conducted before every election. All such non-functional machines from FLC are sent to factories for repairs, and not to laboratories. Further, the ECI has informed that it sent M2-M3 model of VVPAT's (used with M2 EVMS in LS 2019) to the factories for upgradation to M3 VVPATS.
