

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 193
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th July, 2022

ELECTION TO COUNCILLORS OF CANTONMENT BOARDS

*193. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the election of councillors of the cantonment boards as even the extended tenure of the councillors of all the cantonment boards of the country ended in February, 2021;
- (b) if so, the time by which the election is likely to be held
- (c) the reasons for not holding the elections in the cantonment boards so far;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to merge the cantonment boards into nearby municipal corporation, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has received any proposal to amend the administrative structure of the cantonment boards, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on such proposals?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 193 FOR ANSWER ON 29.07.2022 REGARDING 'ELECTION TO COUNCILLORS OF CANTONMENT BOARDS'.

(a) to (c): The Government proposes to amend the Cantonments Act, 2006 by incorporating provisions for imparting, inter-alia, greater democratisation to Cantonment Boards including direct election of Vice-President. The draft Bill in this regard is under finalization. The elections to Cantonment Boards are proposed to be held thereafter.

The present status of all the 62 Cantonment Boards is as under:

Number of Boards	Date of expiry of tenure
56 Cantonment Boards	10.08.2022 (varied w.e.f 11.02.2022 for a period of six months)
03 Cantonment Boards (Jammu, Badamibagh & Ramgarh)	02.12.2022 (varied w.e.f 03.06.2022 for a period of six months)
01 Cantonment Board (Meerut)	12.01.2023 (varied w.e.f 13.07.2022 for a period of six months)
01 Cantonment Board (Pachmarhi)	29.11.2023 (normal tenure)
01 Cantonment Board (Khasyol)	05.12.2022 (varied w.e.f 06.12.2021 for a period of one year)

(d): A framework for excision of civil areas of certain Cantonments and to merge them with neighbouring State municipalities is under consultation with concerned States. This will provide uniformity in local governance and greater ease of living for citizens in the process.

(e): Several suggestions were received from public representatives and general public on the administrative structure of the Cantonment Boards in pursuance of notice inviting suggestions for amending the Cantonments Act, 2006. The suggestions mainly pertain to direct election of Vice-President, empowerment of Civil Area Committee, financial powers to Vice-President, power to vary the constitution of Boards, power to suspend decisions of the Board.
