

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3010**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 09th AUGUST, 2024

Restriction on Political Largesse and Freebies

3010. Prof. Sougata Ray:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to restrict the non-productive political largesse and freebies to the public on the eve of elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed that a large number/items of gifts/contributions are being distributed to canvass for votes in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check/control such types of offers?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Election Commission of India has informed that in compliance of the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated 5th July, 2013 in SLP (C) No. 21455 of 2008, part VIII-"Guidelines on Election Manifesto" was added in the Model Code of Conduct of Political Parties and Candidates, which *inter-alia* provides that in the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that the election manifesto also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirement for it.

Further, for violation of provisions of Model Code of Conduct, Corrupt Practices and Offenses related to elections, there are penal provisions under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and sections 170 and 173 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
