

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2025**

Retention of Election Video Footage and Photographs

2203. Shri Sasikanth Senthil:
Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy:

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

- (a) whether the Election Commission has revised its guidelines to reduce the retention period of video footage and photographs of the election process to 45 days after the declaration of results, if so, the reasons therefor and the stakeholder consultations undertaken prior to change;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the concerns raised regarding the impact of this reduced retention period on electoral transparency, verification of procedures and public trust in the election process, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any mechanism exists to preserve such election related video records beyond the 45 day period in cases where election petitions are filed and if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reassess the recent amendment to Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, that restricts public access to election footage and if so, details of any proposed review or consultative process;
- (e) whether political parties or candidates were consulted before such instructions were issued; and
- (f) the steps being taken to ensure that all election-related electronic records are preserved and made available for independent verification and legal recourse, if required ?

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) to (f): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that as per Section 81 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 election petition can be preferred within 45 days from the date of election of the returned candidate. Therefore, the video footages related to election processes at various stages need to be preserved till the time any election petition is filed and is pending in the High Court of competent jurisdiction. The ECI has further stated that necessary instructions were issued by the ECI, as video footage is akin to giving Form 17A (Register of Voters) live which is restricted under Rule 93(1) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and can be given with the order of a competent court only, to prevent misuse. The ECI has also informed that the Government had amended the Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 by adding the words "as specified in these rules". The said amendment merely removes the ambiguity in providing the documents as specified in the statute. No proposal is pending with the Government to reassess the recent amendment to Rule 93 (2) (a).
