

Legislation to allow political funding

2739. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether Government propose to bring in legislation to legitimise political funding to tackle corruption in the public life;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether it is a fact that an All-Party meeting was held recently to discuss this issue; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 19.03.2002 which seeks, *inter alia*, to streamline and promote donations received by the Political Parties for Elections by giving suitable tax exemptions.

(c) and (d) Before the introduction of the Bill, the Government had discussed the issue of funding of elections with political parties in the all-party meeting held on 13.09.2001.

Increasing the number of Judges in Patna High Court

†2740. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether there are 31 sanctioned posts of Judges in Patna High Court for approximately eight crore thirty lakh population of Bihar out of which eight are lying vacant;

(b) whether the Law Commission has recommended a minimum of sixty Judges in Patna High Court;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.