

**Amount of Premium Collected by LIC and GIC**

724. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of premium collected annually by the LIC and GIC;

(b) how much of this fund collected through premium is invested in Government and Government approved securities and the earnings made thereupon; and

(c) how much of the amount thus invested in Government securities is channelled to infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**170th Report of the Law Commission**

725. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the recommendation of the Law Commission submitted in its 170th report;

(b) whether Government have examined those recommendations;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to implement those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) A Statement containing the salient features of the recommendations of the 13th Law Commission on reforms of electoral laws is attached (*see below*).

(b) to (e) Government has not yet finally formed its conclusions on these issues.

**Statement**

(i) Introduction of List System of Election in addition to the existing one by making provision for additional 25 per cent seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

- (ii) Comprehensive amendment of Anti-Defection Law which include doing away with the concept of split and merger and defection to be treated as a criterion for disqualification from membership.
- (iii) Deletion of provision relating to nomination of members belonging to Anglo-Indian community.
- (iv) Regulating by law the formulation, functioning and organisation of political parties.
- (v) Embargo on delimitation of constituencies to be extended upto the year 2025.
- (vi) Debarring of independent candidates from contesting elections.
- (vii) inclusion of expenditure incurred by the political party and friends etc. in the election expenditure of the candidate.
- (viii) Maintenance of accounts by political parties and penalty in default thereof.
  - (ix) Partial State funding of elections on the pattern of recommendations made by the Indrajit Gupta Committee with a few modifications.
  - (x) Creation of additional disqualification on framing of charges at a trial for certain criminal offences.
  - (xi) Restriction on contesting elections from more than one constituency.
  - (xii) Suggestions regarding expeditious disposal of election petitions which include prescribing time limits to be maintained by the courts at various stages in the disposal of these petitions.
  - (xiii) Empowering the Election Commission to make certain recommendations to the appropriate authority for referring any matter for investigation to an agency specified by it for prosecution of any person for an electoral offence and for appointment of any special court for the trial thereof.
- (xiv) Declaration at the time of filing nomination paper by the candidate in respect of assets owned by him, his spouse, relatives etc. and charges if any, framed against him on affidavit.

(xv) Stability in governance—(A) No seat for a party having obtained less than five per cent of total valid votes even if it wins any seat at an election—a new definition of political party in the Tenth Schedule which includes a pre-election front/coalition—restriction on no-confidence motion, in particular requiring the motion to be accompanied by another motion expressing confidence in a named individual as also no fresh no-confidence motion to be permitted within a period of two years.

(B) Passing references to one election in five years and fixed term for legislative bodies but no final recommendations made.

#### **Amendment to Laws relating to contempt of Judges**

†726. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Attorney-General of India has asked for making amendment to laws relating to the contempt of judges; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The learned Attorney General for India has made personal suggestions that the defence of truth of the allegations made should be available in a contempt action as in the case of a libel action and that if the allegations made are found to be baseless or frivolous, stiff penalties of fine and imprisonment may be imposed upon the person making these allegations.

(b) It has been decided not to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for the present.

#### **Law Commission's Recommendation for Debarring Independents from Contesting Elections**

727. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended debarring

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.