

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Indrajit Gupta Committee Report on State Funding of Elections

1057. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMCHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee Report on State funding of elections accepted by Government; and

(b) by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) have been circulated among the State Government/Union Territories and other concerned authorities for their view/comments thereon. The recommendations and the reactions thereon may be discussed with political parties as part of the process of reform of electoral laws before any decision is taken by the Government in respect of their implementation.

Issue of Photo-Identity Cards to Voters

† 1058. SHRI KAIL ASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission had issued orders in 1994-95 to Chief Electoral Officers of all the States to issue photo-identity cards to the voters of their States;

(b) if so, the total number of voters provided with the photo-identity cards in the country, till the end of December, 2000, State-wise; and

(c) by when photo-identity cards will be issued to all the voters of the country and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. The Election Commission has informed that the scheme of issue of photo identity cards to electors was introduced in the year 1993.

(b) A Statement containing status report on progress of the scheme is attached (See below).

† Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Status report on progress of electors photo identity cards

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Status as on (date)	Total Electors	Electors issued with defect-free Identity Cards	Percentage (5 as % of 4)
I 1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.4.2000	49,140,231	32,568,406	66.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.3.2000	622,124	373,152	59.98
3.	Assam	31.5.1998	12,575,854	67,479	0.54
4.	Bihar	31.3.1998	58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa	30.9.2000	917,222	525,575	57.30
6.	Gujarat	31.5.2000	29,631,636	23,177,051	78.22
7.	Haryana	30.4.2000	11,108,535	9,850,009	88.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.11.2000	3,814,769	2,654,733	69.59
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	30.9.2000	34,903,320	24,407,863	69.93
11.	Kerala*	30.11.2000	22,416,897	16,295,609	72.69
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31.1.2000	44,640,047	27,706,647	62.07
13.	Maharashtra	31.11.2000	57,505,567	44,455,999	77.31
14.	Manipur	31.7.2000	1,413,690	1,033,733	73.12
15.	Meghalaya	20.4.2000	1,182,672	641,459	54.24

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1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Mizoram	—	457,434	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	31.1.2000	966,275	625,996	64.78
18.	Orissa	30.9.2000	24,172,899	18,188,207	75.24
19.	Punjab	31.11.2000	15,723,949	10,810,977	68.75
20.	Rajasthan	31.10.2000	31,177,865	22,532,408	72.27
21.	Sikkim	31.1.2000	257,062	200,077	77.83
22.	Tamil Nadu*	30.11.2000	47,945,872	26,581,419	55.44
23.	Tripura	31.1.2000	1,725,809	1,229,993	71.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31.3.2000	101,943,066	53,027,456	52.02
25.	West Bengal*	30.11.2000	48,121,902	39,102,999	81.26
26.	A&N Islands	30.9.2000	252,729	194,973	77.15
27.	Chandigarh	30.4.1999	538,607	381,048	70.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	31.12.2000	103,603	81,700	78.86
29.	Daman & Diu	28.2.1999	71,931	45,645	63.46
30.	NCT of Delhi	31.1.2000	8,707,531	5,800,683	66.62
31.	Lakshadweep	28.2.1999	36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry*	30.9.2000	658,927	555,675	84.33
All India total			616,195,862	384,830,620	62.45

•The Election Commission has accorded highest priority to increase the coverage of electors with pho Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Pondicherry where elections to the Legislative Assemblies are due in early 2 in these States is given below.

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Si. No.	States/UTs	Position as on	Total electors	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards up to July, 2000.	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity after July 2000.	Total EPIC issued so far (Col. 4+Col. 5)	Percentage (Col. 6 as % of Col. 3)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Kerala	31.1.2001	22,848,899	15,327,431	1,922,258	17,294,195	75.69
2.	Tamil Nadu	1.1.2001	47,945,872	26,581,419	4,213,115	30,796,859	64.23
3.	West Bengal	1.1.2001	48,642,245	37,673,926	2,155,974	39,829,900	81.88
4.	Pondicherry	31.10.2000	658,927	555,675	—	—	84.33

NOTE : EPIC programme in Pondicherry is to commence after the current round of Special revision of Electoral Rolls.

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(c) The process of registration of electors and scheme of issue of photo identity cards to electors are continuous and ongoing processes. It is, therefore, not possible to cover all the electors under the scheme at any given point of time. Likewise, it is not possible to predict/anticipate the likely expenditure to be incurred thereon. The scheme is being implemented by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations directly and the Central Government's role is limited to reimbursement of expenditure of its share (on 50:50 basis) to them as and when claimed by them.

Creation of More Judicial districts in the Capital

1059. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has stayed the creation of more judicial districts in the Capital on the request of Government;

(b) if so, what compelled Government to make such a request; and

(c) when will Government be prepared for creation of more judicial districts in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Nine civil Districts have been created in the National Capital Territory of Delhi vide Government of-NCT, Delhi Notification dated 28.6.2000, co-terminus with the existing nine Revenue Districts. Initially, there would be five Sessions Divisions covering all the nine Civil Districts.

However, the above notification has since been stayed by the Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 18th August, 2000 in Writ Petition No. D9505/2000-Delhi Bar Association Versus Union of India and Ors. The Writ Petition No. D9505/2000 is still under consideration of the Supreme Court of India and thus, the matter is sub-judice.

Setting up of Special Cell for Quake and Cyclone Victims of Gujarat and Orissa

1060. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal to set up a special cell for the quake victims of Gujarat and cyclone victims of Orissa;