

**Special leave petitions filed in the  
Supreme Court**

464. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) filed in the Supreme Court against judgements/orders of Gauhati High Court in the last five years, month-wise;

(b) the number of SLPs admitted for hearing out of the above SLPs during the last five years, month-wise;

(c) the number of appeals allowed by the Supreme Court out of the above SLPs as well as the details of titles of such appeals; and

(d) the number of appeals arising out of SLPs as in (b) above pending for hearing during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Registry of the Supreme Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Proposals of Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms**

465. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposals of Dinesh Goswami Committee on electoral reforms, which have been accepted by Government;

(b) what are the details of recommendations which have not been accepted; and

(c) the reasons for which the same have not been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A summary of the recommendations of the Dinesh

Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms is given in the annexure [See Appendix 171 Annexure No. 10] which is laid on the Table of the House. The recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted by the Government are given in the Statement (See below) which is laid on the Table of the House. It has not been found feasible, so far, to implement the remaining recommendations. The Government is however keen to continue the process of Electoral Reforms on the basis of consensus amongst the political parties.

**Statement**

**Recommendations of the Goswami Committee which have been accepted by the Government**

1. The Election Commission should be a three-member body.
2. Fresh delimitation of constituencies without changing the total number of seats allocated to various States.
3. Use of Electronic Voting Machines in elections.
4. Tenure of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners not to exceed beyond the age of 65 years.
5. Punishment for breach of official duty in connection with preparation, revision, etc., of electoral roll to be made more stringent.
6. Restriction on contesting elections from more than two constituencies of the same class.
7. Increase in the amount of security deposit.
8. Failure to secure 1/4th of the valid votes polled to result forfeiture of security deposit.
9. Candidates of recognised political parties to be arranged above other candidates in the ballot paper.
10. Statutory backing to certain provisions of Model Code of Conduct.

11. Statutory saatus to Commission's Observer and empowering them to stop counting of votes in certain situations.
12. Empowering Election Commission to countermand an election or order a re-poll in entire constituency or part thereof even otherwise than on a report from the Returning Officer.
13. Amplification of offence of booth capturing, making it cognizable and more stringent for Government servants.
14. Bye-elections should be held within a period of six months of the occurrence of the vacancy.
15. No countermanding of an election in case of death of an independent candidate.
16. Enhancement of punishment for disturbances at election meetings.
17. Prohibition of public meetings or procession in connection with an election during a period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll.
18. Enhancement of the penalty for illegal hiring or procuring of conveyances for free conveyance of the voters to any polling station.
19. Prohibition on any person other than authorised persons going armed within the neighbourhood of polling station.
20. Amendment to section 135 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
21. Grant of paid holiday to employees of any industrial undertaking or establishment on the day of poll.
22. No spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances to be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, etc. within a polling area on a polling day.
23. Conviction under section 2 and 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 to lead to

disqualification for a period of six years from the date of such conviction.

#### Change in the Hindu Marriage Act and Special Marriage Act.

466. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to remove from the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act the clauses prohibiting matrimony if one or both partners have epilepsy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: (a) to (c) The question of bringing in necessary amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 for removal of references to epilepsy therein is under active consideration of the Government and a decision in the matter will be taken shortly.

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामले

467. प्रो० विजय कुमार महोदय : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में कुल कितने मामले लंबित हैं ;

(ख) उनमें से सबसे पुराना मामला (केस) कब से लंबित पड़ा हुआ है; और

(ग) जनता को शीघ्र न्याय दिलाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराजभास्करदाज): (क) और (ख) दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय की रजिस्ट्री में जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और मदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी