

**Amendment to laws for the use of electronic voting machines**

\*275. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the use of electronic voting machines was stopped after the 1984 Supreme Court judgement which till then, was in vogue in different by-elections, etc.;

(b) whether Government propose to move an amendment to the relevant laws(s) to remove the Court judgement's effect and to restore the pre-judgement position of holding elections through voting machines; and

(c) if not what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY):**

(a) and (b) The electronic voting machine was not widely in use prior to the Supreme Court judgement referred to. The Election Commission had tried the machine on an experimental basis, in a few constituencies between May, 1982 and November, 1983.

The effect of the Supreme Court judgement is that if the electronic voting system is to be introduced, the relevant provisions of the existing Electoral Law and Statutory Rules should be amended. The machines were therefore not used in any election thereafter. No final decision has been taken as to when the amending Bill to facilitate the use of the machines should be introduced.

(c) While Government have taken a preliminary decision to replace the ballot paper system with the electronic voting machine other arrangements, including the financial ones, have not yet been finalised.

**rehabilitation of the Families of the IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka**

\*276. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of I.P.K.F. (Indian Peace Keeping Force) personnel killed in Sri Lanka so far;

(b) what steps are being taken to rehabilitate their families; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to honour those deceased personnel?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT):** (a) The number of I.P.K.F. personnel killed in Sri Lanka as on 9th May, 1988 is 427.

(b) and (c) A statement indicating the steps being taken to rehabilitate their families and the manner in which Government propose to honour these deceased personnel is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

Government have already announced extension of Liberalised Pensionary awards and other concessions as applicable to battle casualties, for the families of IPKF men killed or wounded in Sri Lanka. Children of such personnel have been granted educational concessions including complete exemption from tuition and other fees, school bus charges, hostel charges for boarding students and full cost of books and stationery, as well as cost of uniform, where compulsory.

Upto two members of each of the families of Defence personnel killed in service or invalidated out with over 50 per cent disability attributable to service are given Priority IIA in employment through employment exchanges for Group C and Group D posts.

Dependents i.e. son/daughter/near relative of defence services personnel who die in harness are eligible to be provided with suitable Group 'C' or Group 'D' civil appointments, without registration in employment exchanges, as available in the Record Office/Regimental Centre/Parent Corps or unit/Armed Forces Headquarters and other Defence Establishments, subject to fulfilment of age and educational standards prescribed for the posts.