

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Committee on Electoral Reforms (Dinesh goswami Committee) considered the proposal for making voting compulsory but did not favour it because of practical difficulties involved in its implementation. The proposal was also discussed in the all party meeting held on 22.05.1998 wherein the consensus was against the proposal.

(d) No, Sir.

### **Free and Fair Elections**

1320. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose a scheme to regularly educate the society in the matter of fair, free and fearless elections in view of the illiteracy and ignorance among the communities which is considered to be a very important area in upholding the democracy; and

(b) whether any stronger measure would be adopted to prevent rigging, intimidation, booth capturing etc. during the elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

### **Increase in number of seats in Lok Sabha**

1321. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament with a condition to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha from 543 to 724 to meet the 33 per cent criterion;

(b) whether according to the 84th Constitutional Amendment which received Presidential assent in 2002, the number of Parliamentary seats have been frozen till 2026; and

(c) whether Government have assessed the financial implications of increasing the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and if so, Government's reaction thereto?