

citizenship status. Their names are, however, not deleted from the electoral roll but they are not allowed to cast the vote till their cases are favourably disposed of by the appropriate authorities/tribunals. In Assam, Electors Photo Identity Cards ('Voter Cards') are not being issued.

Based on the Judgment of the Supreme Court of India dated 6th February, 1995 in Lal Babu Hussain and other vs. Electoral Registration Officer and others, guidelines for Electoral Registration Officers about determination of citizenship of doubtful applicants for inclusion of names in the Electoral Rolls were issued to all Chief Electoral Officers on 15th February, 1995 by the Election Commission of India. These guidelines were repeated in subsequent years and now, they have been incorporated in the Hand Book for Electoral Registration Officers published in 2008, to be followed as part of standing instructions by the Electoral Registration Officers.

Expenditure on holding elections

2870. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on election of Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislature(s) and village, block and district level Panchayats;

(b) whether the expenditure has shown any increase or has declined as compared to earlier elections to these bodies; and

(c) the efforts made/being made by Government to keep the expenditure on elections to such bodies to the barest minimum possible?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) As per the policy of the Government, the expenditure incurred on the Lok Sabha Elections (be it a General Election or Bye-elections) is entirely borne by the Central Government when such elections are held independently. However, the expenditure on State/Union territory Legislative Assemblies is shared on a half and half basis only when such elections are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections. For conduct of General Election to Lok Sabha, the State/Union territory (with legislature) Governments proposes their demands to the Central Government as provisional estimates. The Central Government releases the funds to the State/Union territory Governments keeping in view the demands received from them and availability of funds for the election purpose. This exercise is of a routine nature and funds are released on a year-to-year basis. The State/Union territory Governments incur the expenditure for conduct of General Elections to Lok Sabha from their Consolidated Fund and thereafter make a claim for reimbursement of the incurred amount to the Central Government. The Central Government releases the funds on provisional basis and the election accounts of the State/Union territory Governments are settled only after receipt of the Audit Certificates from the Office of Accountant General of the concerned State/Union territory.

The demand raised by the State/Union territory Governments on the basis of estimated expenditure for conducting of elections for the Lok Sabha in the year 2009 was approximately ` 1114,35,45,000/- . Since the Government has not received the Audit Certificates from all the State/Union territory Governments, it is not possible to furnish the total actual expenditure incurred on the 2009 General Election to Lok Sabha.

The expenditure incurred on State Legislature(s) and Village, Block and District level Panchayats is related to the State Government concerned.

(b) The demand raised by the State/Union territory Governments on the basis of estimated expenditure for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha in the year 2004 was approximately ` 1093,06,81,319/- . The cost escalation on the election expenditure over the years has been due to general price rise, significant increase in the number of contestants and voters, which has consequently resulted in increased expenditure on polling booths and other election materials.

(c) The Government is making every possible effort to keep the expenditure in relation to the conduct of elections to Lok Sabha at the barest minimum possible.

Donations received by political parties

2871. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various political parties in the country have received donations from various public sector undertakings and private organizations;

(b) if so, the details of such donations disclosed by various political parties to the Election Commission of India during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, so far, party-wise;

(c) whether such donations received by political parties are permissible under the rules; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The data on donations as disclosed by various political parties are too voluminous to form part of the answer. Such data for the year 2009-10 are available on the website of the Election Commission of India, (www.eci.nic.in) who has since been advised to upload the data for the year 2010-11 also on their website. The Commission has also informed that no party has disclosed the donations received by them during the year 2011-12.

(c) and (d) As per section 29B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every political party may accept any amount of contribution voluntarily offered to it by any person or company other than a Government company provided that no political party shall be eligible to