

Influence of money power in elections

4103. SHRI N. K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the influence of money power in parliamentary and assembly polls is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Election Commission of India has suggested some measures to control the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) It is not correct to say that the influence of money power in parliamentary and assembly elections is on the rise. Further, the Government and the Election Commission are seriously concerned about the role of money power in elections. In this regard, the Election Commission has taken several measures including opening of separate Division in the Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observers, Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Team to keep vigil over movement of cash, liquor and other items during elections, Media Certifying and Monitoring Committee to keep a watch on media advertisement and paid news, Maintenance of shadow register of each candidate, Video Surveillance Team to oversee major items of expenditure opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving of Income Tax Department to keep vigil over movement of cash. Elaborate mechanism has been adopted by the Election Commission to check the influence of money power in the elections.

Fast Track Courts

†4104. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts were set up for the speedy disposal of pending cases;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.