

Increase in wealth of candidates contesting recent elections

1331. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent Assembly elections, some of the MLAs have increased their wealth by 126 times;
- (b) if so, how; and
- (c) what Government would do to find out the method of increase in their assets?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) In pursuance of the direction in the judgment dated 13th March, 2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No. 490 of 2002 and connected petitions, candidates are required to give information regarding their criminal antecedents, assets, liabilities and educational qualification in the affidavits prescribed by the Election Commission. The information furnished by the candidates is disseminated by displaying copies thereof on the notice board of the Returning Officer, supplying copies to anyone seeking the same and hosting the same on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, which is easily accessible.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Holistic reforms in election process

1332. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

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

- (a) whether Government is mulling to bring holistic reforms in the election process to save the nation from the clutches of money, muscle power, mafia, communalism, casteism criminalization and corruption;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there were reports of use of excessive and unaccounted money power in many constituencies during the recently held Assembly elections; and
- (c) what appropriate action the Ministry is taking to plug loopholes and bad practices being adopted by the political parties and the candidates so that further reforms could be initiated in the near future and cleanse the democratic system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (c) The Election Commission has made proposals for electoral reforms from time to time. The Commission's proposals include proposal to amend the Law to check criminalization of politics, check money power, political parties reforms, misuse of religion for electoral gain, etc. The Commission has also recommended to amend the