

Electoral reforms

396. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to bring about some major electoral reforms for a long time;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard and at what stage is the proposal at present; and

(c) whether Government intends to finalise the electoral reforms before the next general elections in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee was constituted on 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek K. Tankha, Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included (i) De-criminalisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and better Management of Elections; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; and (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who *inter-alia* included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and views have been gathered. The details of these consultations have been put on the website of the Ministry of Law and Justice *i.e.* www.lawmin.nic.in. On the basis of the inputs received in these consultations, discussion with all political parties is contemplated. In view of the complexity of the subject, it is not possible to lay down any rigid time-frame in this regard.

Reasons for pending cases

397. DR T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government is aware that non-implementation of court orders and judgments promptly are the main reasons behind second round of litigations pending in the country;