

Electoral reform

1150. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the result of the General election 2014 to the 16th Lok Sabha has proved the current First-Past-The Post (FPTP) electoral system fundamentally unfair where the ruling party got absolute majority in Parliament while winning only 31 per cent of popular votes in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering a proposal to bring about certain electoral reforms and introducing the proportional representation system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Parliament consists of the President, the Council of States and the House of the People. The elections to the office of the President and to the Council of States are held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. However, for the House of the People our founding fathers had adopted a direct election on the basis of adult suffrage, which is known as first-past-the-post system. Thus under the Constitution of India, both proportionate representation and first-past-the-post system have been provided to elections to Parliament. The present system of First past the post system has served the country well for the last more than sixty years.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce proportional representation in elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies.

(c) In view reply at (b), the question does not arise.

Vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts

1151. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the post of judges in Supreme Court and various High Courts, at present;

(b) by when Government proposes to fill these posts; and