

(e) The ILD proposal is being firmed up for obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority. It is likely to take few months for ILDs to become operational.

Functioning of EVMs and VVPATs

2028. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has received several complaints by political parties regarding tampering of EVMs and failure of EVMs and WPATs as well as interruption of polls during the recently held parliamentary/assembly elections, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the smooth and accurate functioning of EVMs and WPATs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that during the bye-elections to the Parliamentary/Assembly constituencies of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, held on 28th May 2018, out of a total of 15621 EVMs and 6690 WPAT units used, 108 EVMs and 689 WPAT units malfunctioned which were replaced during actual poll.

(c) The Commission has informed that the malfunctioning of WPAT units was due to errors caused by excessive exposure to illumination in the Polling Station. The Commission has further informed that they have decided to reiterate its Standard operating Procedures in this regard. The Commission has decided to make the First Level Checking process stricter. The Commission has also adopted the hardware improvement recommended by Technical Expert Committee to prevent auto shutdown of WPATs due to excessive light. The Commission has directed that the training of the polling officials be further strengthened and streamlined, so that failures due to human errors are minimized.

Missing case files in the Supreme Court and High Courts

2029. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of very important/important case files or important documents which were found to be missing from the supreme court and high courts during the last 10 years along with the details thereof;

(b) the safety measures government is proposing to take to avoid such losses; and