

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether any proposal has been made for making paid news, filing of false affidavits etc. to be included in the electoral offences;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to link voters list with Aadhaar to eradicate duplicate entries, if so, the response of Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In a recent interaction with the Ministry, the Election Commission of India had discussed the implementation of various electoral reforms proposals which, *inter-alia*, include ban on paid news and making filing of false affidavit as an electoral offence. These proposals are part of the recommendations of the Law Commission which are under examination.

(e) Yes, Sir. In order to ensure preparation of error free electoral roll and to prevent duplication of entries, a proposal to amend Representation of the People Act, 1951 to enable de-duplication of electoral data using Aadhar system has been received from the Election Commission. The matter is under examination.

### **Voting and EVMs**

2984. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the maximum number of votes recordable on each EVM manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), supplied for the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections;
- (b) the maximum number of votes printable on each VVPAT Machine manufactured by BEL, supplied for the aforementioned elections;
- (c) the district-wise or constituency-wise number of Control Units of EVMs transported across the country for the aforementioned elections;
- (d) the district-wise or constituency-wise number of Ballot Units of EVMs transported across the country for the aforementioned elections; and
- (e) the district-wise or constituency-wise number of VVPATs transported across the country for the aforementioned elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has informed that the maximum number of votes recordable on each Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and the maximum number of votes printable on each Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Unit used in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections was 1500, which included the votes printed during mock poll and seven VVPAT Unit self-test slips printed each time VVPAT Unit is switched on.

(c) to (e) The Commission has informed that it allocates Ballot Units, Control Units and VVPAT Units to the States/UTs. Further distribution of these Units to districts is made by the Chief Electoral Officer of the State/UT concerned. The intra-State movement of EVMs and VVPAT Units is also done by the Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned State/UT.

#### **e-Courts in the country**

2985. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to roll out e-Courts in the country;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) how many courts across India already offer e-Court services;
- (d) whether Government is contemplating to revamp consumer court system and make it online as well in the future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of District and Subordinate Courts across the country in association with the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II commenced its implementation in 2015. The target set out under the project is computerization of 16,845 District and Subordinate Courts, which has been completed as per Statement (*See below*). Against the financial outlay of ₹ 1670 crores for this Phase, the