

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 30**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 03<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**COMMON ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE COUNTRY**

30 # Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to make amendments in the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to have a common electoral roll for the entire country and to conduct simultaneous elections for all the electoral bodies in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Cabinet Secretary had convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries of all the States in this regard;
- (c) if so, the conclusion of the said meeting and the details thereof;
- (d) whether any consensus has arisen among the representatives of various political parties in the meeting in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the main objective behind these proposals?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) TO (e) OF THE**  
**RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*30**  
**DATED 03<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

(a):No sir.

(b)and(c): A meeting was chaired by the Cabinet Secretary with Chief Secretaries of various States on the 03<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020 related to the use of common electoral rolls in elections to Local bodies. Certain concerns were raised in the meeting and a consensus was made to address the same in the following manner:

- I. The Representation of the People's Act 1950 should be amended to provide for four qualifying dates for registration of new voters. Accordingly, the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 has been enacted by the Parliament which *inter alia* ensures the four qualifying dates for there gistration of new voters.
- II. State Governments are required to make changes in their legislations to adopt the electoral rolls for Parliamentary and Assembly elections for use in local body elections. Election Commission of India (ECI) would provide requisite additional fields in the existing electoral rolls to enable ward wise segregation of voters;
- III. Further, ECI would be required to provide adequate number of Electronic Voting Machines to States for local body elections to resolve issues related to large number of polling stations.

(d): The Political parties were not part of the said meeting. Hence, the question of their consensus does not arise.

(e): The Common Electoral Roll would reduce the cost and effort involved in the process of preparing separate electoral rolls.

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