

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 667
ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2022**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES BY COMPANIES

QUESTION

667 SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of *Corporate Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount contributed to political parties by companies in the last three years;
- (b) the top 15 companies to contribute to political parties in the last three years;
- (c) the total amount of electoral bonds purchased in India since 2017 by companies, and
- (d) whether any foreign companies have donated money to political parties in India?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a), (b) & (d): Under the provisions of the Section 182 of the Companies Act, 2013, companies, other than Government companies and companies less than three years old are allowed directly or indirectly to contribute to any political party with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Company. Such companies shall have to disclose in its profit and loss account the total amount contributed by them during the financial year to which the account relates and the name of the party is not required to be disclosed. Therefore, political party wise data is not maintained.

(c): Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has informed that the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 was notified by the Government of India vide Gazette Notification Number 20 dated 02nd January 2018 and so far, (till completion of the XIX phase) the Electoral Bonds amounting to Rs 9,208.24 crore are purchased from the Authorised Bank "State Bank of India", by eligible individual and entities.

As per para 3 of the above-mentioned Gazette Notification, the eligibility for purchase of Electoral Bond is defined as under:

- (i) The Bond under this scheme may be purchased by a person, who is citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.
- (ii) A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

Accordingly, no Electoral Bonds are issued to foreign entities.