

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding use of ballot paper in the Election -laid.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Seventeen opposition parties including Trinamool Congress would meet Election Commission, demanding ballot papers be used to conduct the 2019 Lok Sabha Election. This is a matter on which all opposition parties agreed. The initiative to solicit the support of all opposition parties on the matter was taken by Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee. Questioning the neutrality of electronic voting machines, West Bengal Chief Minister raised the issue of tampering of EVM and demanded that the 2019 election be held on ballots. The TMC had staged protests outside Parliament and urged all opposition parties to unite. Shiv SenaUdhav Thackeray also demanded that the 2019 election be conducted using ballot papers instead of EVMs. Political parties including national and regional parties demanded the ballot paper in place of EVM to avoid large scale tampering both in the state assembly and Parliament elections in the country. I urge upon the Government to take a stand in favour of ballot paper in the coming elections to be held in the country.