

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:549
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
DELIMITATION COMMISSION
Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) the details of progress made till date regarding delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies and State Legislative Assemblies all over the country;
- (b) whether the work of delimitation is in its last stage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (e) the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (f) the time by which the work of delimitation is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (f): A detailed Statement (Annexure) is laid on the Table of the House.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.549 FOR 25.11.2005.

The Delimitation Commission has completed its work for the States of Goa, Mizoram, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tripura and furnished its final orders in respect of these States to the Government. The Delimitation Commission has reported that the delimitation work for the States of Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal are in its final stages.

2. The Delimitation Commission was constituted in July, 2002 for the purpose of delimiting the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly constituencies all over the country as per the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002. The Commission became functional in November/December 2002. The Commission in terms of the constitutional provisions-was to delimit the constituencies on the basis of 1991 census figures. By June, 2003, the Commission had completed almost 60% of its work based on the population figures of 1991 general census. However, the work had to be sopped since the Parliament through the Eighty-seventh Amendment dated 22nd June, 2003 amended the Constitution of India to provide for delimitation of constituencies on the basis of population figures of 2001 census and not on 1991 census figures. As a consequence, the work done by the Commission on the basis of 1991 Census became non-est by the operation of law. Although the Commission started the delimitation exercise afresh with provisional figures of 2001 census after the passing of the Act, it could not proceed fast since the provisional 2001 census figures relating to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were not available. The 2001 census figures were published on December 31st 2003. Thereafter, the Commission took up the work of collecting data and tabulating the same. While the process was going on, the Lok Sabha was dissolved and fresh elections were declared.

3. The Commission has five Lok Sabha members from each State as its Associate Members. Where the number of MPs in a State is less than five, all are Commission's members. With the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the Associate members ceased to be Members by operation of law. Even otherwise during the elections, the fieldwork by the Commission was almost stopped. After the constitution of the fourteenth Parliament the Commission requested the Hon'ble speaker to nominate Associate Members to the Delimitation Commission from each State. After receipt of the nominations the Commission restarted the delimitation work, which is progressing on a tight schedule.

4. The delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies in the all States is a time consuming work. Under the scheme of the Act, Associate Members are to be associated with the delimitation work from the very beginning. As a consequence there have to be more than one meeting with the Associate members from each State. Thereafter, the final delimitation draft is published in newspapers and suggestion and views are invited from the public. Finally public meetings are held by the Commission in all the States and the draft finalized. The Delimitation Commission has further stated that the delimitation work is proceeding in full swing, on a tight schedule and the Commission will endeavor to complete the work at the earliest.

5. The Delimitation Commission was initially given a term of two years to complete the work of delimitation in all States and Union Territories but due to many factors such as amendment in the Delimitation Act, 2002 replacing figures of census 1991 with that of census 2001, dissolution of Lok Sabha and consequent re-nomination of Associate members, etc. the term of the Commission was extended twice. The present term of the Delimitation Commission is upto 31st July, 2006. However, the Delimitation Commission has stated that it is expected that the work of the Delimitation Commission is likely to be completed by December, 2006.