

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2515

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006

LOTTERIES

Meghwal Shri Kailash;Singh Shri Prabhunath;Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to permit them to restart State Lotteries;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to set-up a Committee to suggest measures for lottery business in the country instead of imposing blanket ban;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the reasons therefor?

Answer

(MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS) (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) The Lotteries (Prohibition)Bill, 1999 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 23.12.1999 with a view to completely ban all types of lotteries. The said Bill was referred to the Department Related Standing Committee on Parliament on Ministry of Home Affairs. The Standing Committee could not reach a consensus on the issue and recommended that the Government should take up this issue at the political level to explore the possibilities of evolving a larger consensus in the matter. Some State Governments are not in favour of imposing complete ban on lotteries.

(b) to (e) : An all party meeting was held on 06.02.2006 to elicit their views on the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999. The representatives of the State Governments organizing lotteries were also invited to express their views. The overwhelming view in the meeting was that lotteries should not be prohibited but there should be stronger and more effective regulation of lotteries and various suggestions were made in this regard. In pursuance of decision taken at the meeting, a Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary and consisting of State Finance Secretaries as members has been set up to examine the suggestions made by the political parties and the State Governments and make suitable recommendations thereon.