

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:2  
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006  
STATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS  
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Government has sought the advice of the Election Commission on State funding of elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering the recommendations of earlier Commissions and also the Tarkunde Committee's recommendations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 2 DATED 17TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

The Central Government considered the various recommendations/proposals relating to State funding of elections received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the 2nd January, 2006, the Government requested the Election Commission of India to recommend, in consultation with the recognized political parties, the quantities of the following items to be provided to the recognized political parties or to the candidates set up by them taking into consideration the geographical features and means of communication available:-

(a) For recognized political parties:

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarters.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with Subscriber Trunk Dialing facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) the amount of time to be distributed on private cable television network and electronic media.

(b) For Candidates of recognized Parties:

(i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.

(ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.

(iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.

(iv) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.

(v) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.

(vi) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.

(vii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall.`.

A reply from the Election Commission is awaited.

2. The Government also decided that the Central and the State Governments both must share in the funding.

The scheme of distribution of the above-mentioned items would be worked out after receipt of the recommendations of the Election Commission.