

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2575

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006

ELECTORAL EXPENSES

Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether any expenditure ceiling has been prescribed for elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the average expenses of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections during the last General Elections;
- (d) whether electoral expenses are on the rise in India; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY LAW AND JUSTICE(SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) and (b) : The existing maximum limit of election expenses in a Parliamentary/ Assembly Constituency in respect of all the States and Union territories as prescribed under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 is enclosed at Annexure.

(c) : The expenditure incurred by the Central Government on conduct of elections for the 14th Lok Sabha in the year 2004, as per the provisional estimate is approximately Rs.1093, 06, 81, 319/-. Further, the Government is not aware of the expenses on Assembly Elections in the States.

(d) and (e):The cost escalation on the election expenditure over the years has been due to general price rise, significant increase in the number of contestants and voters, which has consequently resulted in increased expenditure on polling booths and other election materials.