

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4666
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2005
NEGATIVE VOTE
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal to allow voters to exercise the option of not voting for any candidate in an election if the candidates were not good enough;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to implement the negative vote proposal?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Chief Election Commissioner has suggested that Rules 22 and 49B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 may be suitably amended by adding a proviso that in the ballot paper and the particulars on the ballot unit, in the column relating to name of candidates, after the entry relating to the last candidate, there shall be a column `None of the above`, to enable a voter to reject all the candidates, if he chooses so.

(c): The proposal of the Chief Election Commissioner has been examined in the Ministry of Law & Justice, Legislative Department. Besides, the issue is pending consideration in the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 161 of 2004-PUCL and Another Vs. Union of India and Another.