

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding use of paper ballot in next Lok Sabha election.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, in our election system, we are using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The neutrality of these Electronic Voting Machines has been questioned and we feel that it has been compromised. The Trinamool Congress has demonstrated outside Parliament on the demand that ballot paper system should be brought back in the election process. Our Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, when came last week, gave a call to all opposition parties to come together to demand that ballot paper system is brought back.

Madam, an advanced country like America still have ballot paper system in elections. The same goes with Germany as well. We have no proof that Electronic Voting Machines cannot be compromised. So, 17 opposition parties are planning to get together to represent to the Election Commission. But basically this has to be implemented through the Ministry of Law, which is in charge of conducting elections and is supervising over the Election Commission, which is an independent body under Article 324.

That is why, Madam, through you, I reiterate the demand of Trinamool Congress and of all opposition parties that the Electronic Voting Machines should be scrapped and ballot paper system should be brought back to ensure a fair voting so that there is no hacking and no manipulation of the EVMs by the Ruling Party and their cohorts. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Rahul Shewale and

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.