

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**L O K S A B H A
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1837**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 2022

170TH REPORT OF LAW COMMISSION

**1837. SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR:
SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:**

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

- (a) whether the 170th report of the Law Commission has pointed that continuous elections every year in one or other States along with the General Elections and Assembly elections not only affect the administration and policy decision but also put a huge burden on the exchequer of the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of assembly elections conducted along with the 16th Lok Sabha Election and the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (c) the number of the States where elections have been conducted during 2014-2019, the total funds spent thereon and the total number of days during which the elections were completed, year-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether the Law Commission has also supported the process of conducting Lok Sabha and Assembly Election simultaneously in its 170th report, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the report related to political and electoral reforms and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the conducting of the elections of Lok Sabha and Assemblies simultaneously is under active consideration of the Government and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): The Law Commission has discussed the stability in governance and measures for improving the electoral system in its 170th Report and *inter-alia* stated that governance and economy are the casualties of holding elections almost every year.

(b) and (c): A statement showing year-wise the General Election held from 2014 to 2019 and the number of days during which the elections were completed is attached at Annexure 'A'. As per policy of the Government, the expenditure incurred on the

Lok Sabha Election is entirely borne by the Central Government when such elections are held independently. However, the expenditure on State/Union territory Legislative Assemblies is shared on a half and half basis only when these elections are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha election. For conduct of General election to Lok Sabha, the State/Union territory (with legislature) Governments propose their demands to the Central Government as provisional estimates. The Central Government releases the funds to the State/Union territory Governments keeping in view the demands received from them and availability of funds. This exercise is of a routine nature and funds are released on a year-to-year basis. The State/Union territory Governments incur the expenditure for conduct of General elections to Lok Sabha from their Consolidated Fund and thereafter make a claim for reimbursement of the incurred amount to the Central Government. The election accounts are settled only after receipt of the Audit Certificates from the Office of the Accountant General of the respective State/Union territory Governments. However, the provisional release against the settlement of Election accounts during the 16th Lok Sabha Election i.e. 2014-15 and 2015-16 is as given below:-

	Figures (in crore)
YEAR	Provisional release
2014-2015	506.23
2015-2016	307.30
2016-2017	1941.14

Further, the expenditure incurred with regard to the State/Union territory Legislative Assembly elections held along with the 16th Lok Sabha Elections, the following amount has been incurred as per Audit Certificate (for the year 2014-2015) is as given below:

	Figures (in Rs.)
STATE	Amount
Andhra Pradesh	355,32,22,824
Arunachal Pradesh	53,45,89,945
Orissa	66,92,44,633
Sikkim	3,26,11,170

(d) to (f): Yes Sir, the Law Commission in its 170th Report, submitted in the year 1999, on reforms of the Electoral Laws *inter-alia* stated that goal of one election in every five years has to be achieved in stages by curtailing or extending the term of Legislative Assemblies of States/Union territories. Further, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stake-holders including the Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th report. The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out practicable road map for framework for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

**Statement showing year-wise the General Election
held since, 2014 to 2019.**

General Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, 2014.		
Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of days to complete elections
1.	Andhra Pradesh (along with Lok Sabha)	85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (along with Lok Sabha)	85
3.	Odisha (along with Lok Sabha)	85
4.	Sikkim (along with Lok Sabha)	85
5.	Jharkhand	66
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	66
7.	Haryana	41
8.	Maharashtra	41
Year 2015		
9.	Bihar	65
10.	New Delhi	32
Year 2016		
11.	Assam	79
12.	Kerala	79
13.	Puducherry	79
14.	Tamil Nadu	79
15.	West Bengal	79
Year 2017		
16.	Gujarat	57
17.	Himachal Pradesh	70
18.	Goa	71

19.	Manipur	71
20.	Punjab	71
21.	Uttar Pradesh	71
22.	Uttarakhand	71
Year 2018		
23.	Chhattisgarh	69
24.	Madhya Pradesh	69
25.	Rajasthan	69
26.	Mizoram	69
27.	Telengana	47
28.	Tripura	47
29.	Meghalaya	47
30.	Nagaland	47
General Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, 2019.		
31.	Andhra Pradesh (along with Lok Sabha)	79
32.	Arunachal Pradesh (along with Lok Sabha)	79
33.	Odisha (along with Lok Sabha)	79
34.	Sikkim (along with Lok Sabha)	79
35.	Jharkhand	56
36.	Haryana	37
37.	Maharashtra	37