

# Electoral reforms resolution by Parliamentary standing committee

Compiled by



<b>"Having regard to the fact that:—</b>	<b>This House urges upon the Government to—</b>
<p>In the absence of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, there is hardly any year without election in the country which is highly time-consuming and involves monumental wastage of financial, manpower and other resources;</p>	<p>Amend the election and other related laws forthwith to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously which gives a period of clear five years to the incumbent Government to focus on governance;</p>
<p>Separate elections affect stability, governance, administration and stands as hurdle in attending to peoples' grievances simultaneously bringing down the economic growth because of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct during elections;</p>	<p>Amend laws and rules in such manner which facilitate reforms in electoral cycle in order to limit election expenditure and avoid wastage of time in electioneering;</p>
<p>Central Election Commission and the State Election Commissions have separate electoral rolls which result in duplication of voters and electoral malpractices resulting in considerable expenditure in holding this democratic exercise;</p>	<p>Ask the Election Commission to have one single electoral roll in the country to weed out duplicate voters, check electoral malpractices and bring down the cost of holding the democratic exercise;</p>
<p>Many defence personnel, certain categories of Government employees, displaced Kashmiri Hindus, etc., are deprived to exercise their right to franchise due to their geographical locations;</p>	<p>Amend the Constitution and other relevant Acts and rules to introduce e-ballot/e-voting system in order to enable all voters, who may be away from their place of residence for different reasons, to exercise their right to franchise online;</p>
<p>In the absence of public funding, which otherwise is being allowed in many countries, there is huge flow of black money into the electoral system which is also paving the way for entry of unscrupulous elements into electoral politics;</p>	<p>Implement State funding of elections;</p>
<p>Even though Election Commission puts limit on campaign expenditure, depending upon the nature of election, such ceilings practically remain only on paper and the actual cost of running an election campaign is often much higher than the prescribed limit;</p>	<p>Enact or suitably amend the relevant laws to regulate utilization of funds by political parties;</p>

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<p>The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003, which aims to control expenditure of every candidate in election, has little impact at the ground level since the existing system lacks transparency;</p>	<p>Take steps for strengthening democracy, transparency in political funding and other necessary reforms;</p>
<p>The lack of strong legislative backing with effective implementation machinery and absence of legally acceptable public funds leave candidates to fend for themselves during each election without any steady support to ensure continuation of their respective campaigns which otherwise has the obvious consequence of proliferation of black money into politics and the institutionalization of corruption;</p>	<p>Link Aadhaar Number with Election Card issued to every eligible citizen of the country;</p>
<p>The absence of effective measures to ensure transparency and accountability in funding of political parties exacerbates present situation by creating authoritarian power structures, which are hard to relinquish for those who enjoy their benefits and tend to impose themselves in the scheme of national politics as well;</p>	
<p>The high cost of elections prevents those with modest financial resources from being competitive in elections resulting inevitably in biased policy decisions,</p>	<p>Permit NRIs and Indians staying abroad to cast their vote during elections."</p>