

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *120

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JULY, 2018

AUXILIARY POLLING STATIONS

*120. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the participation of differently-abled persons in the election process is very low and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the same;
- (b) whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) has decided to establish auxiliary polling stations for the people with disabilities during the elections and if so, the details thereof along with its features;
- (c) whether ECI has also launched the distribution of Electoral Photo Identity Cards with Braille features for visually challenged voters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be distributed to visually challenged persons; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for maximum participation of persons with disabilities in the election process?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *120 DATED 25TH JULY, 2018**

(a) to (e): The Election Commission has informed that mapping of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) polling station-wise is being conducted in all the States/UTs for planning of specific facilitation measures for the PwDs at the time of registration and voting. Provisions have also been made in Form 6 relating to application for inclusion of name in electoral roll for specification of type of disability. However, PwD electors have not been segregated in the present format of the electoral roll, therefore, segregated data of the electors of past elections, is not available in compiled form.

The Commission has informed that printing of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) with Braille for persons with visual impairment or blind and provision of auxiliary polling stations for persons with disabilities (PwD) are amongst some of the measures towards their facilitation that have been announced by the Commission on 4th July, 2018 during "National Consultation on Accessible Elections" organized by the Commission.

The Commission has taken measures from time to time to enhance enrollment of Persons with Disabilities and their participation in election process. The Commission has a dedicated programme, namely; Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation(SVEEP) for creating awareness among the voters in general and also for targeting specific groups like persons with disabilities.
