

# ONOE bills to be tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday

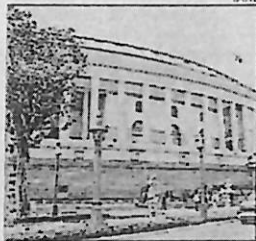
## Propose To Insert New Article On Simultaneous Polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the proposed bills on 'one nation, one election' (ONOE), to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday the govt has argued that there is an imperative need for holding simultaneous elections for various reasons as polls have become expensive and time-consuming.

In the Constitution (129th) Amendment Bill, 2024, the govt has stated that the imposition of a Model Code of Conduct in several parts of the country that are poll-bound puts on hold the entire development programmes and causes disruption of normal public life.

The bill proposes to insert a new Article 32A — simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and all legislative assemblies —



**MAJOR HAUL:** The govt has argued that there is an imperative need for holding simultaneous elections for various reasons as polls have become expensive and time-consuming

and to amend Article 83 (Duration of Houses of Parliament), Article 172 (Duration of State Legislatures) and Article 327 (power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures).

In case of dissolution of

the House of the People or a legislative assembly, sooner than the full term of the House of the People or the legislative assembly; the term of the House or assembly constituted pursuant to elections shall be for the unexpired term of the House or the assembly," the bill stated.

The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, proposes to make 'consequential amendments' to the Government of Union Territories Act, 1983, (related to Puducherry), the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, to 'align the holding of simultaneous elections' along with the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. Delhi, Puducherry, and J&K are the three UTs with legislative assemblies.

# Omar tells ally Congress to stop whinging about EVMs

## 'Those unhappy with EVM results should boycott polls'

New Delhi, Dec. 15: Opening another point of friction with an important ally, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah has dismissed the Congress party's vehement objection to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and echoed the BJP's defence — "you can't accept election results when you win, and blame EVMs when you lose".

"When you get a hundred plus members of Parliament using the same EVMs, and you celebrate that as sort of a victory for your party, you can't then a few months later turn around and say... We don't like these EVMs because now the election results aren't going the way we would like them to," Mr Abdullah told PTI in an exclusive interview on Friday.

Told that he sounded suspiciously like a BJP



Omar Abdullah

spokesman, Mr Abdullah reacted with "God forbid!" He then added: "No, it's just that... What's right is right." He said he speaks based on principles rather than with partisan loyalty and cited his support for infrastructure projects like the Central Vista as an example of his independent thinking.

"Contrary to what everybody else believes, I think that what's happening with this Central Vista project is a damn good thing. I believe constructing a new Parliament building was an excellent

idea. We needed a new Parliament building. The old one had outlived its utility," he said.

The CM said parties should not contest elections if they do not trust the voting mechanism. "If you have problems with the EVMs, then you should be consistent in those problems," he said while replying to a question about whether he thinks that the Opposition in general and the Congress, in particular, is barking up the wrong tree by focusing on EVMs.

After its loss in the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Congress has expressed doubts about the EVM's infallibility and the election outcome. It has demanded a return to the paper ballot.

Mr Abdullah's comments add to his National Conference party's unhappiness with the Congress. — PTI

## Key reasons for 'ONOE' funds and time, says bill

**NEW DELHI.** There is an imperative need for holding simultaneous elections for various reasons as polls have become expensive and time-consuming, according to the proposed bill being brought to implement the ambitious 'one nation, one election' plan.

According to the constitution amendment bill listed for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the imposition of a Model Code of Conduct in several parts of the country that are poll-bound puts on hold the entire development programmes and causes disruption of normal public life.

Frequent poll code imposition also impacts the functioning of services and curtails the involvement of manpower from their core activities for deployment for prolonged periods for election duties, the 'Constitution (129th) Amendment Bill, 2024' underlined.

The bill seeks to insert a new article in the Constitution and amend three articles to put in place the mechanism to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

The bill proposes to insert a new article 32A - simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and all legislative assemblies and to amend Article 63 (Duration of Houses of Parliament), Article 172 (Duration of State Legislatures) and Article 327

(power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures).

The bill also provides that after its enactment, a notification is to be issued by the President on the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election, and that date of the notification will be called the appointed date.

The tenure of the Lok Sabha will be five years from that appointed date.

The tenure of all state Assemblies, constituted by elections to the Legislative Assemblies after the appointed date and before the expiry of the full term of the House of the People, shall come to an end on the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha.

"Thereafter, all general elections to the House of the People and all Legislative Assemblies shall be held together simultaneously," it explained.

"In case of dissolution of the House of the People or a Legislative Assembly, sooner than the full term of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, the term of the House or Assembly constituted pursuant to elections shall be for the unexpired term of the House or the Assembly," it explained.

The bill also pointed out that the general elections to the House of the People and all State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously in the years 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

**The bill seeks to insert a new article in the Constitution and amend three articles to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies**