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## SC issues notice to poll panel on 'discrepancies' Two NGOs sought investigation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to respond to a petition filed by two NGOs seeking a probe into alleged discrepancies between voter turnout and the number of votes counted in 347 constituencies in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

"The lack of reasoned explanation by the Respondent No.1 (Election Commission of India) on mismatch and the clean-up of certain data from its website has caused serious doubts in the mind of citizens about the. entire process of counting and result declaration," said the petition filed by the As-

sociation for Democratic Reforms and Common Cause, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi. The petition said a study was done by them on the discrepancy patterns found in the ECI website and the 'My Voters Turnout App'. These discrepancies ranged from one vote (lowest) to 1,01,323 votes.

In fact, the petition said, there were six seats where the discrepancy in votes was higher than the winning margin. The total volume of discrepancies was in the nature of 7,39,104 votes put together, the petition quoted the study. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde issued the notice to the ECI.