

According to a Reuters survey, most Japanese companies want Shinzo Abe, the long-time prime minister, to stay in office after his term ends in September 2021, but less than one in five Japanese companies say he should stay in office; the current allegations about Abe's violation of the election law have weakened his public support.

Opposition lawmakers say Mr Abe may have violated the election law by inviting supporters to attend government funded cherry gatherings and subsidizing them at the reception the night before. Questions have also been raised about whether gangs are taking part in the cherry viewing and why this year's invitation list was destroyed by the shredder.

Abe has denied any wrongdoing.

Shinzo Abe was elected Prime Minister of Japan for the first time in 2006, resigned in 2007, took office again in December 2012, and promised to revive the economy. In November, he became Japan's longest serving prime minister, breaking the record of 100 years ago.

"A long-lived government can lead to centralization of power and corruption, but no other political figure has the same experience and ability now," a textile company manager wrote explaining why Abe should remain in office. 59% of respondents said Abe should finish his term as president of the LDP and then step down. Another 16% want him to stay.

In order for Abe to remain in office, the LDP's rules need to be revised. As long as the LDP remains in power, the party's leader will basically be able to serve as prime minister.