

DELIMITATION COMMISSION

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001.

No.DL/PN-2/2002/

Dated : 28th August, 2002

PRESS NOTE

Subject : Delimitation Commission Meeting with Chief Electoral Officers

The first meeting of the Delimitation Commission with the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry was held today at Nirvachan Sadan. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh, Chairman of the Delimitation Commission. Shri B.B. Tandon, Election Commissioner of India and ex-officio member of the Delimitation Commission also attended the meeting.

Shri J.K. Banthia, Registrar General & Census Commissioner and Nodal Officers nominated by the Surveyor General of India and National Thematic Mapping Organisation attended the Meeting as special invitees. The Registrar General made a presentation before the CEOs about the availability of census data and maps.

The Chairman stressed that although the Delimitation Commission had been given a period of two years to complete the delimitation of States, the Commission was determined to finish the work by the end of calendar year 2003, well before the general elections are due to the Lok Sabha. Five States, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Delhi were being taken up immediately so that the newly formed constituencies form the basis of election to the Legislative Assembly whose elections may take place by November/December, 2003. Further four States, viz., Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura where general election to the Legislative Assembly are due in February, 2003 are also being taken up on priority basis. The Commission will sincerely try to complete their work also within the available time frame.

The Chairman further briefed the Chief Electoral Officers on the procedures that would be adopted for delimiting assembly and parliamentary constituencies under the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002. Shri B.B. Tandon, explained that the 1991 Census data would be re-tabulated on the basis of current administrative and developmental units as a pre-cursor to the readjustment of boundaries of assembly constituencies. The Chief Electoral Officers explained to the Commission the steps taken by them for obtaining 1991 census data and maps of administrative and developmental units from the State Census Directors and collating the same in terms of latest administrative/development units in the formats prescribed by the Commission.

After the population data and maps are obtained, the Secretariat of the Delimitation Commission will do a preliminary exercise for each State of readjusting boundaries. The office proposals will be discussed in a meeting of the full Delimitation Commission. They will then be discussed with the Associate Members and finalised. The draft proposals will be published in the Gazette of India and in the Gazette of the State concerned and dates fixed for public hearings. The draft proposals will also be published in the vernacular newspapers. The suggestions made in the hearings will be examined by the Delimitation Commission and a final order drawn up which will then be gazetted, and also published in the vernacular newspapers.

The Chief Electoral Officers appreciated the magnitude of the task and complexities due to the fact that the readjustment was being attempted after a gap of about 30 years. After listening to the views of the Chief Electoral Officers and keeping the constraints in the various States, a time frame was fixed for submission of the required data and maps by the CEOs.

(C.R. BRAHMAM)
SECRETARY