

By Fax/Camp Bag

## ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

ANUJ JAIPURIAR  
UNDER SECRETARY

No. 464/GJ-LA/2007

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

To

The Chief Electoral Officer,  
Gujarat,  
Gandhinagar.

Sub.- General Election to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly 2007 – **Issue of EPICs to shifted/absentee electors** - Regarding..

Sir,

The Commission had recently directed a survey of shifted/absent electors under two categories i.e. with family links and without family links. Out of these two categories the existence of shifted/absent electors without family links offers a scope for misuse and malpractice.

2. In this connection, I am to state that apprehensions have been raised in certain quarters that some unscrupulous elements may be preparing fake/bogus/unauthorized Electors Photo Identity Cards against the names of so identified shifted/absentee electors which may be used for bogus voting. The Commission has considered the matter and has issued the following directions:-

- (i) **Form ECI-EPIC-001** [Form for issue of Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC)] **shall henceforth not be sent to so identified shifted/absentee electors without actual physical verification** of the fact that the hitherto shifted/absentee elector has actually re-started residing at his/her address recorded in electoral roll.
- (ii) If Form ECI-EPIC-001 [Form for issue of Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC)] has already been issued to such person (shifted/absentee electors), the EPIC so prepared shall not be issued to him/her on line but the same **shall be delivered only at his/her address** in person to him/her after obtaining a "**Panchrozkam**" from neighbours, whose electoral identity also should be mentioned in "**Panchrozkam**"

- (iii) Form-001 shall be carried and delivered only by a Govt. functionary and in no case should be handed over to any private party for distribution.
- (iv) The persons, who are in the lists of shifted/absentee electors and have been issued EPICs after 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007, shall again be physically verified by the BLOs and if found to be still shifted/absent, their EPICs shall be cancelled.
- (v) The preparation and issue of EPICs at DPL Centre shall only be made in the overall supervision of a Designated Officer to be appointed/earmarked for each DPL centre by the District Election Officer. He shall be primarily responsible for ensuring that wrong EPICs are not prepared and take an account for the day.
- (vi) The Returning Officer and Sector Officer shall carry out surprise checks. However, they must verify daily about the electors whose EPIC were prepared against the name & address to whom Form-001 were issued for the day.
- (vii) A Log Book shall be maintained for opening/closing of DPL centre, which will be duly countersigned by the Designated Officer.
- (viii) Similarly, a register showing details of arrival and departure of DPL staff and their movement outside the centre during their working hours shall also be maintained, which will be duly countersigned by Designated Officer.
- (ix) The infrastructure (Computer etc.) of the Designated Photography Location (DPL) Centre shall not be shifted/moved out without prior approval of District Election Officer.
- (x) The necessary security arrangements may also be made for DPL Centre.

3. It shall be overall responsibility of District Election Officer to ensure the purity of EPIC making process. Severe action will be taken against the Electoral Registration Officer and District Election Officer in case of misuse of DPLs for making of bogus EPICs.

4. This shall be brought to the notice of all concerned immediately. A copy of this letter shall also be handed over to all Observers through the District Election Officers.

5. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged with the confirmation that the relevant instructions have been issued to all the concerned officers. A copy of instructions/directions so issued in this behalf may also be endorsed to the Commission for its information and record.

Yours faithfully,

(ANUJ JAIPURIAR)