

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/4/ 2010

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PRESS NOTE

Recently, in a section of press, some concerns have been raised about the delay in conducting the bye-election to 83-Pennagaram Assembly Constituency in the State of Tamil Nadu. The position is clarified as under:

A casual vacancy in the State Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu from 83-Pennagaram AC in Dharmapuri district fell vacant due to death of the sitting member on 01-12-2009. The said vacancy needs to be filled up by 01-06-2010. The Commission vide Press Note dated 22nd December 2009 announced programme for holding bye-election from the said constituency along with other bye-elections in Gujarat and Haryana. As per the said programme, the notification was issued on 26-12-2009 and the polling date was fixed on 20-01-2010. However, due to representations from various political parties, the said notification for bye-election to Pennagaram was withdrawn vide notification dated 28-12-2009 as the Pongal festival and the Tamil New Year were falling during the campaign period. For notifying the bye-election dates afresh in 2010, the Commission had to revise the electoral roll with reference to 1.1.2010 as the qualifying date. The said revision of electoral roll exercise was ordered and the final roll was to be published on 02-02-2010, when the Commission received a large number of complaints from several individuals and political parties that names of a large number of ineligible persons had been included and eligible

persons deleted from the electoral roll. In view of this, the Commission, on 01-02-2010 deferred the final publication of the electoral roll until further order and simultaneously asked the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu to get the said complaints verified and to take appropriate action for (either inclusion or deletion) after following due procedure. The Commission has also asked CEO, Tamil Nadu to direct District Election Officer, Dharmapuri to hold a meeting of the representatives of the political parties to discuss the issues. The Commission shall now review the progress on 17th February, 2010, when report of CEO, Tamil Nadu on various issues raised by political parties is received. On the basis of the report, and after final publication of electoral roll is made, the Commission will take a decision on the dates for holding of bye-election in this constituency, keeping all relevant considerations like school examinations, religious festivals, etc.

(BERNARD JOHN)
SECRETARY