

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001

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No. ECI/PN/62009

Dated :4<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

## PRESS NOTE

**Subject: Meeting with Chief Electoral Officers of all States and UTs to discuss issues related to conduct of elections.**

A meeting of the Chief Electoral Officers of all the States and UTs was taken today, the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, by the Election Commission. The state of preparedness for the forthcoming elections was reviewed. CEOs of all States and UTs attended the meeting.

Current status of the electoral rolls was reviewed. All the States and UTs now have photo-electoral rolls except 3 States, namely, Assam, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir. The State CEOs have been asked to maximise the photo coverage and EPIC preparation as well as distribution. Towards this, attention was drawn to the recent initiative of ECI to enlist the support of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of the political parties for updating the electoral rolls. While in many areas the political parties have been able to appoint their BLAs, there were still some states where few political parties have not been able to set up their BLAs.

**The Commission decided that all the political parties be requested by CEOs to appoint BLAs latest by 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.** The Commission further directed the CEOs to continue to use the institution of BLAs in roll updation work even after final publication during continuous revision of rolls on a regular basis. The CEOs have been directed to organize a meeting of BLOs and BLAs at polling station level on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009 to check and point any inaccuracy in the rolls. Such meetings can be held on a continuous basis for the improvement in the rolls. The CEOs have also been directed that in the BLO-BLA meeting should also look into the location of polling station buildings etc.

The Commission reviewed the status of enrolment of service personnel and directed the CEOs to maximize the enrolment of service personnel through special campaigns conducted within military stations within their States.

The Commission reviewed the advance measures for conduct of Lok Sabha elections and simultaneous assembly elections in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim. The availability of EVMs and other election material was reviewed. CEOs were directed to get the EVMs tested by the manufacturers, viz, ECIL and BEL and to take up an intensive programme of EVM awareness amongst the voters extensively. Audio Visual material on EVM training was also circulated all the CEO for their use.

Other aspects of election management like availability of polling personnel, their training, observer management and continuing arrangements were also reviewed. Standard training materials for all levels – District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Sector Officers, Presiding Officers, Observers and Micro Observers that was developed in a workshop of selected CEOs, DEOs and ROs, was handed over to all CEOs to ensure, by and large, uniformity in conduct of a free and fair poll across the States.

The Commission decided to take up next level of review of election preparedness at regional/State level meetings in the days to come.

(S.K.RUDOLA)  
SECRETARY