

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-10001.

No. ECI/PN/01/2010

Dated: 6th January, 2010

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Biennial Election to the Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh from 35 Local Authorities Constituencies – regarding.

The Commission vide its Press Note no. ECI/PN/69/2009 dated 7th December, 2009 has announced schedule for holding Biennial Election to the Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh to fill 36 seats from 35 Local Authorities Constituencies as the sitting members of these constituencies are retiring on 15th January, 2010.

The Commission has appointed 35 IAS officers belonging to Uttar Pradesh cadre as its Observers to watch the ongoing Biennial Election. Also 35 Special Observers have been appointed for these constituencies on the request of the political parties/candidates.

Earlier instructions have been issued for compulsory identification of voters during poll with the help of Electoral Photo Identity Card/ any other Identity Card having the photograph of the elector/ Identity Card issued by the Local Authorities, allowing companion for infirm/ blind/ illiterate voters-after obtaining declaration from them in prescribed proforma, deployment of Micro-Observers in each polling station, , continuous and uninterrupted videography of poll proceedings inside the polling station without compromising secrecy of vote.

The Commission held a video-conference with the Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh, and all the Returning Officers/Collectors/Observers and Special Observers on 5th January, 2010 to review the ground situation and the status of various complaints received by the Returning Officers and the Observers as well as the Commission. During the video-conference the Commission directed all the Returning Officers, and the Observers to ensure free and fair election. They have been further instructed to look into all the complaints received at their end or forwarded by the Commission.

As per the Commission's directions, Micro-Observers are being deployed on all the 923 polling stations on the poll day. The Commission has directed the Micro-Observers to ensure that proper identification of electors is done in accordance with the guidelines of the Commission pertaining to Declaration made by illiterate/ Blind or otherwise infirm electors and their companions. The Commission, during the video-conference, also further clarified that in case the Micro-Observers notice any deviation/ violation of the poll procedure they should immediately bring the same to the notice of the Presiding Officer of the polling station and report the incident to the Commission's Observer at the earliest for appropriate action.

The Commission has directed all the Returning Officers that they should ensure that uninterrupted and continuous videography is done at all the polling stations.

(R.K. Srivastava)
Secretary