

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110 001

No.ECI/PN/11/2010

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

## **Press Note**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had started the scheme of Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) in the year 1993 to prevent impersonation at the time of polls. Another decision taken by the Commission in this direction in the year 2004 was to print Photo Electoral Rolls (PERs). Coverage of both EPICs and Photographs in the Electoral Rolls has increased significantly in the last few years. At present the All India coverage of EPICs is approximately 82% and Photo images in the Electoral Rolls is approximately 77%. The Commission has decided that a concerted effort should be made to achieve 100% EPIC coverage and Photo coverage in Electoral Rolls by the end of the current year. Detailed discussions were held with all CEOs on this issue at the Chief Electoral Officers' Conference in Jaisalmer during the month of February, 2010. A working group of CEOs was constituted for this purpose. On the recommendations of the Working Group, the Commission issued instructions to Chief Electoral Officers of all States/ UTs on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 for achieving 100% EPIC and Photo coverage in Electoral Rolls by the end of 2010, which were as follows:

- i) Prepare an analytical paper on EPIC and PER coverage in the State. The paper should include strategies which have been decided by the Commission and are to be followed by the States/UTs to achieve 100% EPIC and PER coverage by the end of year 2010 like:
  - a) Issue of State Govt./UT Admn. order on payment of incentive to BLOs consequent to Commission's letter.
  - b) Ensuring that BLOs for each Part are appointed in accordance with the Directions of the Commission.
  - c) Names & phone numbers of BLOs to be put on CEO's website.

- d) Schedule for Training of BLOs to be prepared.
  - e) Organizing meeting of DEOs at State/UT level.
  - f) Organizing meeting of EROs at State/Division/District/Regional level.
  - g) Analysis of Rolls to identify Polling Stations with very low coverage of EPIC, Polling Stations with >90% coverage of EPIC & “last mile” problems and Polling Stations having other problems relating to EPIC and PER coverage.
  - h) Preparation of Paper on Special strategies to be adopted for low coverage areas, last mile problems and any other special problems.
  - i) Setting up Co-ordination mechanism with Govt. Departments having other Photo-databases like NREGA.
  - j) Setting up co-ordination mechanism with Director of Census of the State/UT.
  - k) Setting up monitoring mechanism at all levels in the State/UT.
  - l) Conducting Photography Campaign to capture/collect photographs of those electors who do not have their photos yet on the PER.
  - m) Conversion of images into binary data and merging them into E-Detail Table.
  - n) Generation of EPICs of residual electors including new electors.
  - o) Distribution of generated EPICs to electors.
- ii) Prepare a schedule of activities in the prescribed Format and send it for approval of the Commission by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.
  - iii) Put in place a mechanism to monitor polling station-wise progress so that an early corrective action may be taken if some districts are lagging behind.

Chief Electoral Officers have been asked to furnish a fortnightly progress report to the Commission on the maximization of photos in the

roll. A web based application has also been launched for keeping the Commission abreast of the position.

The Commission appeals to people in general, who are having their names enrolled in the electoral rolls but do not have their Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to avail the benefits of the present efforts and come forward to get the EPIC made. Special facilities have been provided now-a-days in their State/UT for generation/distribution of EPIC. They may visit the offices of the EROs/AEROs or Special Centres set up for registration of electors/ EPIC making at the earliest and submit photographs/ get photographed for the purpose of obtaining an EPIC. They may also avail the facility of the door-to-door campaign by BLOs to make sure that their photos and other details are correctly reflected in the electoral roll, and also EPICs are issued to them, if not already done.

(Yashvir Singh)  
DIRECTOR  
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