

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001

No. 508/2008-EPS

Dated: 18th December, 2008

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States/Uts,

Subject: Criteria for appointment of District Election Officer/Retuning
Officer – clarification regarding.

Sir/Madam,

In supersession of the Commission's letter No. 508/94/PS-I dated. 7.9.1994 addressed to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States/UTs on the above subject, I am directed to say that as you are aware that the conduct of election has undergone a paradigm change, as such the role of Retuning Officer has gained more focus. It has been observed in the past elections that one officer had been made incharge of many Assembly Constituencies. Even the District Election Officers were allowed to remain as Returning Officers of more than one Parliamentary Constituencies. In the present context, the Commission has decided that: -

- (i) In para 2(b) of the Commission's letter No. 508/94-PS-I dated.13.01.94 (copy enclosed), the criteria for appointment of Retuning Officer for a Parliamentary Constituency, may be read as that there will be a separate Retuning Officer for each and every Parliamentary Constituency.
- (ii) In cases where there are two or more Parliamentary Constituencies totally coming within one district, the District Election Officer cum District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner/Collector will be the Returning Officer of only one Parliamentary Constituency and another seniormost officer not below the rank of ADM shall remain incharge of the second Parliamentary Constituency falling in the same district. However, the District Election Officer will take care of electoral administration of the whole district.

- (iii) In cases where a Parliamentary Constituencies in contained in partly in two districts, the District Election Officer of that district where major parts of the Parliamentary Constituency falls shall be the Returning Officer of that Parliamentary Constituency. In case the District Election Officer of that district is already a Returning Officer of another Parliamentary Constituency in the district, an ADM rank officer will be Returning Officer provided prior permission of the Commission is obtained.

Yours faithfully

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
UNDER SECRETARY