

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-1

No. ECI/PN/ 6 /2005

Dated: 3rd March, 2006

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Bye-election to the Council of States from Orissa to fill up the vacancy occurring due to expulsion of sitting member Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha .

A vacancy has occurred in the Council of States from the State of Orissa due to expulsion of sitting member Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha on 23rd December 2005, before the expiration of his term of office, which was upto 1st July 2010.

2. It has been a consistent policy of the Commission that the bye elections shall be held at the earliest possible opportunity in order to ensure that no segment of the Indian people are left unrepresented for unnecessary length of time.

3. A petition (Transferred Case No.82 of 2006 – Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha Vs. Rajya Sabha & others) challenging the expulsion of Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha from membership of Rajya Sabha is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, while considering the petition today i.e. 3rd March 2006, directed that the bye-election to fill this vacancy will be subject to the final outcome of the said Transferred Case No.82 of 2006.

4. In view of the above, the Election Commission has decided to fill up the above mentioned vacancy in accordance with the following programme :-

1. Issue of Notification		10th March, 2006 (Friday)
2. Last date of making nominations	:	17 th March, 2006 (Friday)
3. Scrutiny of nominations	:	18 th March, 2006 (Saturday)
4. Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	:	20 th March, 2006 (Monday)
5. Date of poll	:	28th March, 2006 (Tuesday)
6. Hours of poll	:	9.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M
7. Counting of Votes	:	28 th March, 2006 (Tuesday) at 5.00 PM
8. Date before which election shall be completed	:	31 st March, 2006 (Friday)

5. The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 09.06.2004 in the Writ Petition No. (C) 217 of 2004 in the matter of Kuldip Nayyar Vs Union of India inter alia has stated :

`` Election of the members of the Council of States is subject to the result of Writ Petitions or Orders that may be passed at the time of the final disposal of the this writ petition. ``

6. Therefore, the result of this bye election will also be subject to the final orders passed in Writ Petition No. (C) 217 of 2004.

**(LALIT MOHAN)
SECRETARY**