

PRESS NOTE

Election Commission of India has issued detailed guidelines on the preparation of Electoral Rolls for the Council Constituencies. A notification was published by the Chief Electoral Officer and all Electoral Registration Officers on 29.9.2006. This notification was circulated to all recognized and registered political parties, educational institutions, officers' associations, clubs, all offices, banks, firms, Head of the Institutions, offices etc., located in the constituency.

Representations were since received from the Teachers' Associations, Graduates etc., regarding supporting documents, delegation of authority to receive applications to the Mandal level and additional officers who may receive the applications. After careful consideration of the representation, the Election Commission of India has issued following clarifications which are given below:

1) Applications can be submitted at Mandal Level:

To provide convenience to voters to submit their applications at places nearer to their residences as well as place of work, the Election Commission of India has directed that MRO, MPDOs and MEOs, be appointed Designated Officers for receiving applications from graduates and teachers in Forms 18 and 19 respectively for inclusion in the electoral roll. These officers will also be empowered to verify the educational qualifications of the graduates by comparing the photo copy attached to the application form of diploma/marks sheet, with the original. The applications can be submitted not only to these designated officers but also to the Asst.EROs/RDOs as well as EROs/DROs.

2) Receipt of Applications on Holidays:

The ECI has also received suggestions that in view of a number of holidays in October,2006, the applications be received on some holidays also. Accordingly, the ECI has ordered that applications for inclusion be received by EROs/AEROs and Designated Officers on Sunday the 29th October,2006 as well as Sunday 5th November, 2006 during working hours apart from on all working days between 29th September,2006 to 6th November,2006.EROs have been directed to make necessary arrangements.

3) The last date for receipt of applications:

The last date for receipt of applications for registration of electoral rolls for graduates and teachers is the 6th November, 2006.

4) Submission of Bulk applications:

In view of the requests made by various teachers associations the ECI as a special case agreed to submission of bulk applications only by the Heads of Educational Institutions. The Heads of Educational Institutions can directly send Form 19 certifying the eligibility of the applicants. Each of these applications must be accompanied by the certificate from the Heads of Educational Institutions in the format prescribed by the ECI. Further the applications should be forwarded by the Heads of Educational Institutions through a forwarding letter signed personally by him along with a list of applications. The applications in bulk cannot be accepted from any institutional head other than educational institution. Any bulk applications received from person/institution other than the Heads of Educational Institutions will be summarily rejected.

5) Verification of graduates' claims:

Graduates will have to produce their original certificates for verification before the AERO/RDOs or the designated officers, MROs, MPDOs, and MEOs. In cases where the claim is supported by a copy of an entry in the Government record or a certificate issued to a Graduate employee by the Gazetted Head of the Office on the basis of entries in Govt. records or a copy of an entry in the record of the Statutory Bodies, Corporations or Public Undertakings; specifying the degree /diploma or certificate possessed by the claimant duly attested by the Head of Office; further verification by the Designated Officer will not be required. Only in cases where attested copies of documents are furnished by the applicant instead of original certificates such originals are required to be verified by the Designated Officers.

6) Teachers with three years experience in eligible schools now working in ineligible schools:

Teachers who are presently working in an ineligible institution will be treated on par with retired teachers. If they have already worked for three years in an eligible institution during the last six years they will be eligible for enrollment even though they are now working in an ineligible institution, provided necessary certification is provided to this effect.

7) Eligibility of non-voting Members of Local Authorities:

Members of local authorities who do not have a right to vote in the local authority are not entitled to be included in the roll for local authorities constituencies as per Karnataka High Court observation in (L.Shivana Vs. State of Karnataka & Ors (86 EIR 336). The High Court observed that voting rights of members are dependent on the State Local Bodies Act, if they have a right to vote in the respective local bodies as per the Act, then they shall be deemed to be electors for the Local Authorities Constituency. Hence, the members who do not have voting right in the Local Authority should not be enrolled as electors in that particular Local Authority.

8) Model Code of Conduct:

Model Code of Conduct is not applicable to any elections to the State Legislative Council. However, there will be a ban on transfer of officials connected with preparation of electoral rolls till the final publication of the rolls.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT