

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
South 'H' Block, Secretariat, Hyderabad.

Memo. No.7006/Elecs.D/2019-14

Dated:23.09.2019.

Sub:- Bye-Election to the Telangana State Legislative Assembly, 2019 from 89-Huzurnagar A.C. – Printing of Ballot Papers – Photograph of candidate to be also printed along with the other particulars - Instructions – Issued -Regarding.

- Ref:-
1. ECI New Delhi Lr. No. 576/3/2015, dated 16.3.2015.
 2. ECI New Delhi Lr. No. 576/3/2015/SDR, dt.19.01.2016.
 3. ECI New Delhi Lr.No.576/3/2017/SDRJ, dt.18.10.2017.
 4. ECI Lr. No.464/ECI/TERR/SOU3/TS/2018, dt.20.11.2018.
 5. ECI Lr. No. 576/3/2016/SDR, dt.29.04.2016.
 6. ECI Lr. No. 576/3/2016/SDR, dt.29.04.2016.

The attention of the Collector and District Election Officer, Suryapet and the Returning Officer, 89-Huzurnagar A.C., is invited to the references cited regarding direction for printing of photograph of candidate on the Ballot paper.

2. In the reference 1st cited, the ECI has directed that the postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers and the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVM shall, in addition to the particulars as per the existing directions, also contain the photograph of the candidate. The photograph of the candidate shall be printed in the panel for the name of the candidate and shall appear on the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate. The size of the photograph printed on the ballot paper shall be 2 cm X 2.5 cm. (two cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height). A sample ballot paper (Annexure-I) is enclosed for reference.

3. The above direction for printing of photograph of candidate on the Ballot paper shall also apply in relation to elections by Assembly constituencies.

The specifications for the photograph are as follows:

- (i) Candidates are required to submit their recent photograph (taken during the preceding period of 3 months before the date of notification).
- (ii) Photograph should be of stamp size 2 cm.x2.5 cm. (two cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height) in white/off white background, with full face view directly facing the camera, neutral facial expression with eyes open. The photo may be in colour or black and white as may be convenient for the candidate.
- (iii) Photograph should be in normal clothing. Photograph in uniform is not permitted. Caps/hats should be avoided. Dark glasses also to be avoided.

P.T.O.

4. The candidates required to submit their photograph conforming to the above requirements/specifications along with their nomination papers and, in any case, latest by the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The photograph should bear the signature of the candidate/election agent on the reverse side of the photograph. When the photograph is submitted, the candidate/election agent/proposer submitting the photograph shall be asked to give a declaration stating that the photograph being submitted is that of the candidate (mentioning the name and address) taken during the period of preceding 3 months. A printed format for the declaration as annexed (Annexure-2) to this letter shall be kept with the RO/ARO for this purpose.

5. When the nomination is filed, if the photograph of the candidate is not submitted, the RO shall give a **notice** asking the candidate to submit the photograph latest by the date of scrutiny of nomination. In the same Notice, it shall also be added that if the photograph is not submitted, his/her photograph will not be printed on the ballot paper. If any candidate still fails or refuses to give his photograph, that candidate will not have his photograph printed on the ballot paper. It may be added that non-submission of the photograph by the candidate shall NOT be a ground for rejection of the nomination of the candidate.

6. The Returning Officer shall display a list of validly nominated candidates with the photographs of the candidates against their names on the day following the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The Returning Officer shall inform the candidates at the time of scrutiny that the photographs to be printed on ballot paper will be displayed on his notice board on the next day (time may also be specified). If there is any error in the photograph or other particulars, the candidates/others will get an opportunity to point out the same to the Returning Officer for rectifying the error.

7. In the reference 2nd cited, the ECI has forwarded a format for the Notice to be given by the R.O. as referred at para 5 above for non-submission of Photograph of the candidate.

8. In the reference 3rd cited, the ECI has directed that, henceforth, **photographs of candidates shall also be printed against their names in the list of contesting candidates in Form-7A**. Thus, the copy of the said forms to be supplied to each contesting candidate should contain the photographs of the candidates. The same format with photographs of candidates shall be used for publishing of the Form in the Gazette as well as for displaying copies thereof in the polling stations. The correctness of the entries in the Form-7A shall be the responsibility of the Returning Officers

Contd...p.3.

9. In the references 5th & 6th cited, the ECI has clarified that, if the Returning Officer is satisfied that a candidate wears cap or dark glasses in normal course, then photograph with cap or dark glasses can be accepted in his case. However, there should not be any writing, slogan or mark pertaining to the candidate or his Party visible on the cap and ensure that no candidate wear party kanduvas in photographs.

10. The above instructions are not exhaustive. For detailed instructions in respect of serial numbers for the candidates, names of candidates and the election symbol allotted to each candidate and a panel for 'None of the Above' after the name of the last candidate, the particulars to be printed, also specification on other aspects, such as, size of the ballot paper, size of panels, number of columns, etc., have been given in the Hand Book for Returning Officer, and latest instructions of the E.C.I. issued from time to time should be referred and followed.

11. Copies of the above references cited are sent herewith to the Collector & D.E.O. Suryapet is requested to bring these instructions to the notice of all concerned i.e., Returning Officer / Asst. Returning Officers and election related authorities concerned for strict compliance.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER &
E.O. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Collector & D.E.O., Suryapet (w.es.)

Copy to:

The Returning Officer, 89-Huzurnagar Assembly Constituency
through the D.E.O., concerned. (w.es.)

The Commissioner of Printing Press, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad for information and with a request to make necessary arrangements for procuring the Pink papers and printing.(w.e).

Sf/Spare

// FORWARDED: BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER

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

No.576/3/2015/ SDR

Dated: 16th March, 2015

To,

The President/General Secretary/Chairperson/Convenor,
All recognized National & State Parties.

Sub: Printing of ballot papers- photograph of candidate to be also printed alongwith the other particulars on the ballot paper.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to inform that the Commission has directed that for the elections to be held from 1st May, 2015 onwards, the ballot papers at all elections to the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures shall contain, in addition to the existing particulars, the photograph of the candidate also printed thereon. The photograph will be printed on the right side of the name of the candidate in between his name and his symbol (where applicable). A copy of the instructions issued in this regard, vide letter dated 16-03-15 addressed to the Chief Electoral officers, is enclosed for your information.

2. It may be seen that for the purpose of printing the photograph of candidate on the ballot paper, the candidates are required to submit their latest photograph (stamp size- 2 cm in breadth and 2.5 cm in height) to the Returning Officer along with their nomination paper and, in any case, latest by the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The specifications for the photograph have been prescribed in the instructions referred to above.

3. You are advised to communicate these instructions to all the lower level units of the party for briefing the candidates of the party appropriately for compliance in elections to be held from 01-05-2015.

Yours faithfully,



(K.F.WILFRED)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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

No.576/3/2015/ SDR

Dated: 16th March, 2015

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States and UT's.

Sub: Printing of ballot papers- photograph of candidate to be also printed along with the other particulars.

Madam/Sir,

Under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit of the EVM shall contain such particulars as the Commission may specify. Similarly, Rules 22 and 30 provide, inter alia, that the particulars on the postal ballot paper and ordinary ballot paper shall be as specified by the Commission.

2. In terms of the abovementioned Rules 22, 30 and 49B, the Commission has specified the particulars to be printed on the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit and the postal ballot paper. The particulars so specified at present are the serial numbers for the candidates, names of candidates and the election symbol allotted to each candidate and a panel for 'None of the Above' after the name of the last candidate. The existing directions which apart from the particulars to be printed, also contain specifications on other aspects, such as, size of the ballot paper, size of panels, number of columns, etc., have been given in the Handbook for the Returning Officers.

3. The Commission has noted that there are many cases where candidates with same or similar names contest from the same constituency. Although appropriate suffixes are added to the names of candidates in the event of two or more candidates having same name, the Commission considers that additional measures are required for removing confusion in the minds of electors at the time of voting. There is also a writ petition on this very subject pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court [WP (C) No. 541 of 2014- Akash Gahlot Vs. Election Commission of India & another].

4. Having considered all aspects of the matter, the Commission in partial modification of its existing directions under Rule 22, Rule 30 and Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, hereby specifies that for elections to be held from 1st May, 2015 onwards, the

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postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers and the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVM shall, in addition to the particulars as per the existing directions, also contain the photograph of the candidate. The photograph of the candidate shall be printed in the panel for the name of the candidate and shall appear on the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate. The size of the photograph printed on the ballot paper shall be 2 cm.X 2.5 cm. (two cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height). A sample ballot paper for election to Lok Sabha is enclosed for reference (Annexure-1).

5. The above direction for printing of photograph of candidate on the ballot paper shall also apply in relation to elections by Assembly members and elections from Council constituencies. In respect of the said elections, the directions are in exercise of powers under Rule 30 as made applicable to these elections by Rule 70 of the said Rules.

6. The specifications for the photograph are as follows:

- (i) Candidates are required to submit their recent photograph (taken during the preceding period of 3 months before the date of notification).
- (ii) Photograph should be of stamp size 2 cm.X 2.5 cm. (two cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height) in white/off white background, with full face view directly facing the camera, neutral facial expression with eyes open. The photo may be in colour or black and white as may be convenient for the candidate.
- (iii) Photograph should be in normal clothing. Photograph in uniform is not permitted. Caps/hats should be avoided. Dark glasses also to be avoided.

7. The candidates at every election shall be required to submit their photograph conforming to the above requirements/specifications alongwith their nomination papers and, in any case, latest by the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The photograph should bear the signature of the candidate/election agent on the reverse side of the photograph. When the photograph is submitted, the candidate/election agent/proposer submitting the photograph shall be asked to give a declaration stating that the photograph being submitted is that of the candidate (mentioning the name and address) taken during the period of preceding 3 months. A printed format for the declaration as annexed (Annexure-2) to this letter shall be kept with the RO/ARO for this purpose.

8. When the nomination is filed, if the photograph of the candidate is not submitted, the RO shall give a notice asking the candidate to submit the photograph latest by the date of

scrutiny of nomination. In the same Notice, it shall also be added that if the photograph is not submitted, his/her photograph will not be printed on the ballot paper. If any candidate still fails or refuses to give his photograph, that candidate will not have his photograph printed on the ballot paper. It may be added that non-submission of the photograph by the candidate shall NOT be a ground for rejection of the nomination of the candidate.

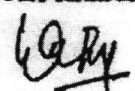
9. The Returning Officer shall display a list of validly nominated candidates with the photographs of the candidates against their names on the day following the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The Returning Officer shall inform the candidates at the time of scrutiny that the photographs to be printed on ballot paper will be displayed on his notice board on the next day (time may also be specified). If there is any error in the photograph or other particulars, the candidates/others will get an opportunity to point out the same to the Returning Officer for rectifying the error.

10. These directions may be brought to the notice of all DEOs, ROs and other election authorities in the State/UT. These may also be brought to the notice of all political parties based in your State, including the State Units of recognized parties. A press release may also be given for wider dissemination of the directions.

11. Please note that as mentioned in paragraph 4 above, these directions shall be applicable for elections to be held from 01-05-2015.

11. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,



(K.F. WILFRED)

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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By Speed Post/E- Mail

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

No.576/3/2015/SDR

Dated: 19th January, 2016

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States/UTs.

Sub: - Printing of ballot papers-photograph of candidate to be also printed along with the other particulars-reg.

Sir,

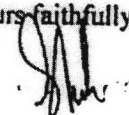
I am directed to invite reference to the Commission's letter of even number dated 16th March, 2015 on the subject cited above. In paragraph 8 of the said letter it has been directed that if the photograph of the candidate is not submitted alongwith nomination paper, the RO shall give a notice asking the candidate to submit the photograph latest by the date of scrutiny of nomination.

There have been some suggestions that a format for this notice to be given, as referred to above, should also be prescribed by the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission has now prescribed a standard format for such notice. Copy of the format approved for this purpose is enclosed.

This may be brought to the notice of all DEOs, ROs and other authorities concerned for compliance to all future election. The political parties based in the States may also be informed.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,


(N.T. Bhutia)
Under Secretary

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

No. 576/3/2017/SDR/

Dated: 18-10-2017

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

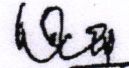
Sub: List of contesting candidates in Form 7A/7B- displaying therein photographs of candidates against their names.

Sir/Madam,

Reference is invited to the Commission's letter No. 576/3/2015, dated 16th March, 2015, regarding directions for printing photographs of candidates also in the ballot papers.

2. The Commission has now directed that, henceforth, photographs of candidates shall also be printed against their names in the list of contesting candidates in Form-7A or 7B, as the case may be. Thus, the copy of the said forms to be supplied to each contesting candidate should contain the photographs of the candidates. The same format with photographs of candidates shall be used for publishing of the Form in the Gazette as well as for displaying copies thereof in the polling stations.
3. A clarification has also been sought as to whether 'NOTA' is to be printed in Form 7A and 7B. It is clarified that since Form 7A/7B denotes list of contesting candidates, 'NOTA' is not to be printed therein.
4. This direction may be conveyed immediately to all Returning Officers including the Returning Officers for Rajya Sabha election and Legislative Council elections.

Yours faithfully,



(K.F. WILFRED)

SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

By E-mail/ Camp Bag

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 464/ECI/TERR/SOU3/TS/2018

dated 20th November, 2018

To

The Chief Electoral Officer,
Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Subject: General Elections to Telangana State Legislative Assembly, 2018 –
Announcement of schedule by the ECI – Conduct of Meeting with
Political Parties - reg.


Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter no. 3987/Elects.D/2018-3 dated 11th November, 2018 on the subject cited above and to convey clarifications to the points, raised in the aforesaid letter, as under:-

- (i) **Submission of Form-A:** Form-A and Form-B, originally signed, are required to be submitted to each RO under Para-13 of the Symbols Order. This can't be dispensed with.
- (ii) **Language of Manifesto:** No particular language is required.
- (iii) **Photograph of Candidate with Cap on:** The ECI has already clarified (copy of the letter no. 576/3/2016/SDR dated 29th April, 2016 is enclosed) that accessories that are part of the normal/daily attire may be permitted in photo as well.
- (iv) **Common Manifesto:** The ECI has no objection if a group of parties draw up a common manifesto.
- (v) **Allowing BLAs to accompany with the BLOs during the distribution of Photo Voters' Slip:** BLAs are allowed to accompany the BLOs during distribution of PVSs; however, during the process, the BLOs themselves will distribute the PVSs, the BLAs shall only keep a watch on the process. In case of any irregularity, the ERO concerned may be informed by BLAs.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the letter.

Yours faithfully,


(K. H. Singh)
Under Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 576/3/2016/SDR

Dated: 29th April, 2016

To
The Chief Electoral Officer,
Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sub: Instructions regarding printing of photograph of candidates on the ballot paper- clarification-regading.

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to the Commission Direction No. 576/3/2015/SDR, dated 21st May, 2015, regarding printing of photograph of candidates on ballot paper. One of the specifications for the photograph mentioned in the said Direction is that caps/hats and dark glasses should be avoided while taking the photograph.

2. The Commission has received a representation on behalf of Sh. M. Rajagopalan, a candidate, stating that he has been wearing cap as part of his attire due to health problems, and therefore the cap has become a part of his identity, and hence in his case cap should be permitted in the photograph to be printed on the ballot paper.

3. It is clarified that if the Returning Officer is satisfied that a candidate wears cap or dark glasses in normal course, then photograph with cap or dark glasses can be accepted in his case. However, there should not be any writing, slogan or mark pertaining to the candidate or his Party visible on the cap.

Yours faithfully,



(K.F. WILFRED)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Copy to the Chief Electoral Officer, Puducherry and the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu, Chennai.

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By Speed Post/E- Mail

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

No.576/3/2015/SDR Vol II

Dated: 21st May, 2015

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States/UTs.

Subject - Printing of photographs of the candidates on the postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers in the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVMs- Forwarding of the Commission's Direction-regarding.


Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the Commission's Direction No.576/3/2015/SDR dated 21st May, 2015 with the request that this may be published in an extraordinary issue of the gazette of the State and a copy thereof may be sent to the Commission for its record.

The above direction may be immediately conveyed to the District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and Presiding Officers of all Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State/ UT. This may also be brought to the notice of all political parties based in your State, including the State units of National and State recognised political parties.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,


(N.T. Bhutia)
Under Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

DIRECTION

Dated 21st May, 2015

No. 576/3/2015/SDR : Whereas, under Rules 22, 30 and 49B read with Rule 70 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit of the EVM, ordinary ballot papers, and postal ballot papers shall contain such particulars as the Election Commission may specify; and

1. Whereas, in terms of abovementioned Rules, the Commission has specified the particulars to be printed on the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit and the postal ballot paper, and on ballot papers for elections from Council Constituencies and at elections by Assembly members; and

2. Whereas, the Commission has noted that there are many cases where candidates with same or similar names contest from the same Constituency, and although appropriate suffixes are added to the names of candidates in the event of two or more candidates having same name, the Commission considers that additional measures are required for removing confusion in the minds of electors at the time of voting, and further, the Commission considers that photographs of candidates on ballot paper will facilitate the electors in casting their votes and also the candidates in their campaign:

3. Now, therefore, after having considered all aspects of the matter, the Commission, in partial modification of its existing directions under Rule 22, Rule 30 and Rule 49B read with Rule 70 of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, issued from time to time, hereby specifies that for all elections to be held from 1st May 2015 onwards, the postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers and the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVM shall, in addition to the particulars as per the existing directions, also contain the photograph of the candidates printed thereon. The photograph of the candidates shall be printed in the panel for the name of the candidates and shall appear to the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate or the column for marking vote/preference, as the case may be. The specification for the photograph shall be as follows:-

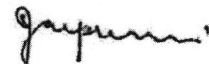
(a) The candidates are required to submit their recent photograph (taken during the preceding period of 3 months before the date of notification.)

(ii) The photograph should be of stamp size 2 cm. X 2.5 cm. (2 cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height) in white/off white background, with full face view directly facing the camera, neutral facial expression with eyes open. The photo may be in colour or black and white as may be convenient for the candidate.

(iii) Photograph should be in normal clothing. Photograph in uniform is not permitted. Caps/hats should be avoided. Dark glasses also are to be avoided.

4. The above direction shall apply in relation to all elections to the House of the People, Council of States, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council to be held hereafter;

By Order



Secretary
(Anuj Jaipuria)