

BIENNIAL ELECTION TO TSLC-2021
MOST URGENT

By POST/Mail

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA
5th Floor, North Block, Bhudha Bhavan, Raniguj, Secunderabad, Hyderabad- 03.

MemoNo.182/Elecs.D/A1/2021-105

Dated: 13.03.2021

Sub: - Elections– FAQs on voting through Postal Ballot by absentee voters in the category of Senior Citizens, PwDs and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons - Communicated-Reg.

Ref:- ECI, Letter No. 52/2021/SDR/Vol.I, dated 13.03.2021.

A copy of the reference cited is sent herewith to the Commissioner, GHMC & DEO, Hyderabad and all the Collectors & DEOs in the State, wherein ECI has issued FAQs on voting through Postal Ballot by absentee voters in the category of Senior Citizens, PwDs and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons, for information and taking necessary action in the matter.

**DR. SHASHANK GOEL,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
E.O. & SPL. CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT**

To,
The Commissioner, GHMC & DEO, Hyderabad (w.e.)
All the Collectors & DEOs in the State. (w.e.)
Copy to:
All the Returning Officers of Assembly & Parliament Constituencies.
SLA (for placing on CEO Website)

//FORWADED:: BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER


ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

No. 52/2021/SDR/VOL.I

Dated: 13th March, 2021

To,

The Chief Electoral Officer of
all States/Union Territories.

Subject: FAQs on voting through postal ballot by Absentee Voters in the category of Senior Citizens, PwDs and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons -regarding.

Ref: Commission's letters (1) No. 52/2020/SDR/Vol.I dated 28th September 2020 (2) letter No. 52/2020/Vol.I dated 28th September 2020 and (3) No. 52/2021/SDR/Vol.I letter dated 2nd February 2021.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your reference to the Commission's letter of even number dated 2nd February 2021 whereby guidelines for voting through postal ballot by Absentee Voters in the category of Senior Citizens, PwDs and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons were issued. In view of the various queries raised in this regard, a set of FAQs and clarifications in this regard is enclosed.

2. The FAQs may be circulated to all DEOs, Returning Officers, Officers connected to elections and the political parties based in your State, for their information.
3. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully

(Abhishek Tiwari)
Under Secretary

So/D.
Communicate to all DEOs
All ROS of AEs & PCS & to all
copy to J# political parties.
13/3/21

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sub:- Postal Ballot facility in the category of absentee voters.

Q1. Who is entitled to avail facility of voting through postal ballot?

Ans. In pursuance of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2019, and the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2020 read with the Election Commission's decision dated 16th July, 2020, the following categories of Absentee voters have been given the facility of voting through postal ballot (PB) paper :

- (i) Senior citizens (above 80 years of age),
- (ii) Persons with disability flagged in the electoral roll database,
- (iii) COVID 19 suspect or affected persons, and;
- (iv) Persons employed in essential services (In consultation with the Central & State Govt., CEO provide the list of essential services and then Commission issues the Notification)

Q2. What is the Form in which the application for postal ballot by an absentee voter can be made and where one can get copy of that Form?

Ans. The application for postal ballot can be made in Form-12D. The Form can be downloaded from the website of Election Commission (<https://eci.gov.in/files/file/12269-form-12d-letter-of-intimation-to-assistant-returning-officer-for-absentee-voters/>). Besides, the Booth Level Officers will distribute copy of Form-12D to absentee voters as per details given by the Returning Officer of the concerned constituency.

Q3. Which authority issues postal ballot to absentee voters?

Ans. Returning Officer of the constituency will issue postal ballot on the basis of Form-12D received from an absentee voter. The elector who has applied for postal ballot and whose particulars are found to be correct in the electoral roll along with other requirements, shall be issued postal ballot paper. The said postal ballot paper will be handed over by the polling officer visiting the residence of absentee voter. The postal ballot paper will not be sent to the absentee voter by any other means. Marking of vote on the postal ballot paper by the absentee voter should be done without any influence.