

Sub: Provision for `None of the Above' option on ballot paper for elections to Rajya Sabha.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in their judgment dated 27-09-2013 in WP (c) No. 161 of 2004, inter alia, directed that the option of `None of the Above' (NOTA) shall be provided on the ballot papers/EVMs. In pursuance of this direction, the Commission issued instructions on 11th October, 2013 for providing NOTA option on the ballot after the name of the last candidate. Later, in January, 2014, the Commission issued directions that the provision of NOTA shall also be applicable in the elections to Rajya Sabha, and issued instructions to this effect vide circular letter dated 24th January, 2014. Immediately thereafter biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha were held in 16 States. Poll was taken on 7th February, 2014 where elections were contested. Instructions regarding NOTA option were applicable in these elections onwards.

2. On 27th February, 2014, while extending the NOTA option to Legislative Council elections, further instructions were issued regarding the manner of marking vote with NOTA option on the ballot paper. Later, on 12th November, 2015, more detailed instructions were issued regarding the manner of voting including opting of NOTA option with illustrative examples.

3. From January, 2014, biennial elections to Rajya Sabha covering all States and 25 bye-elections to Rajya Sabha have been held. A list of States where biennial elections to Rajya Sabha have been held from 2014 onwards is attached.

Instructions mentioned above can be seen at the following links: -

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/ElectoralLaws/OrdersNotifications/NOTA_11102013.pdf

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/ImpIns24jan_12022014.pdf

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/ImpIns1_18112015.pdf

Biennial Election from January, 2014

In 2014

1st Biennial Election from 16 States

S.No.	State	No. of seats	Date of Poll
1	Maharashtra	7	7 th February, 2014
2	Odisha (contested)	4	
3	Tamil Nadu	6	
4	West Bengal (contested)	5	
5	Andhra Pradesh (contested)	6	
6	Assam (contested)	3	
7	Bihar	5	
8	Chhattisgarh	2	
9	Gujarat	4	
10	Haryana	2	
11	Himachal Pradesh	1	
12	Jharkhand	2	
13	Madhya Pradesh	3	
14	Manipur	1	
15	Rajasthan	3	
16	Meghalaya	1	

2nd Biennial Election from 3 states

Sl. No.	States	Seats	Date of Poll
1	Arunachal Pradesh (contested)	1	19 th June, 2014
2	Karnataka	4	
3	Mizoram (contested)	1	

3rd Biennial Election from 2 States

Sl. No.	States	Seats	Date of Poll
1.	Uttar Pradesh	10	20 th November, 2014
2.	Uttrakhand	1	

In 2015 (4 Biennial elections)

Sl. No.	States	Seats	Date of Poll
1	Jammu & Kashmir (contested)	2	7 th February, 2015 (two biennial elections)
		2	
2	Kerala (contested)	3	20 th April, 2015
3	Puducherry	1	28 th September, 2015

In 2016

1st Biennial Election

Sl. No.	States	Seats	Date of Poll
1	Assam (contested)	2	21 st March, 2016
2	Himachal Pradesh	1	
3	Kerala	3	
4	Nagaland	1	
5	Tripura (contested)	1	
6	Punjab (two biennial elections)	3	
		2	

2nd Biennial Election

Sl. No.	States	Seats	Date of Poll
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	11 th June, 2016
2	Telangana	2	
3	Chhattisgarh	2	
4	Madhya Pradesh (contested)	3	
5	Tamil Nadu	6	
6	Karnataka (contested)	4	
7	Orissa	3	
8	Maharashtra	6	
9	Punjab	2	
10	Rajasthan (contested)	4	
11	Uttar Pradesh (contested)	11	
12	Uttaranchal (contested)	1	
13	Bihar	5	
14	Jharkhand (contested)	2	
15	Haryana (contested)	2	

25 Bye Elections held from January, 2014

1. In 2014 contested from Bihar
2. In 2015 contested from Jharkhand, date of poll was 2nd July, 2015
3. In 2017 contested from Manipur, date of poll was 25th May, 2017