

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/74/2017

Date: 13.09.2017

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Seminar on de-novo preparation of last part of Electoral Rolls and Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots System (ETPBS) on 13th September, 2017.

The Election Commission has been constantly endeavoring to streamline registration of service voters in electoral roll and facilitate them for voting through Postal Ballot System.

With the purpose of maximization of registration of service voters in the electoral rolls with clean, complete and updated data, the Election Commission has announced programme of de-novo preparation of last parts of electoral rolls with reference to 01st January 2017 as the qualifying date during July-Oct 2017. For end to end online submission of Forms by service personnel through their Record Officer/Commanding Officer till final roll publication, a dedicated service voter portal developed by IT team of ECI has been made operational. All the transactions regarding registration of service voters between Record Officers and Electoral Registration Officers are being made through this online service voter portal. The programme of online service voter registration is going on in full swing.

To deliberate on the strategies to facilitate and motivate the service personnel for online registration during the ongoing de-novo preparation of electoral rolls, a seminar was conducted today on 13th September 2017 from 12.00 Noon to 01.30 P.M at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.



Sh. A.K. Joti, CEC, Sh. O.P. Rawat, EC and Sh. Sunil Arora, EC while launching a Film on Service Voters registration and ETPBS

The seminar was attended by Sh. A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner, Sh. O.P. Rawat, Election Commissioner and Sh. Sunil Arora, Election Commissioner, Defence Secretary Sh. Sanjay Mitra, Secretary East (MEA) Ms. Preeti Saran, Additional Secretary (Home Affairs) Sh. Jaydeep Govind, Lt. General R. Gopal, DG (MP&PS), Indian Army, Air Marshal P.P. Bapat, Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla, and other senior officers from the services and CPFs. From the Election Commission side, Sh. Umesh Sinha, Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner, Dr. Sandeep Saxena, Deputy Election Commissioner, Sh. Sudeep Jain, Deputy Election Commissioner, Sh. Dilip Sharma, Director General, Sh. Dharendra Ojha, Director General and other senior officers in charge of Electoral Roll Division, IT Division and SVEEP Division also attended the Seminar.

Sh. A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner along with Sh. O.P. Rawat, Election Commissioner and Sh. Sunil Arora, Election Commissioner, Defence Secretary Sh. Sanjay Mitra and senior officers from Election Commission and other guests inaugurated the Seminar by lighting the lamp. They witnessed the exhibition on service voter registration and ETPBS.

Sh. A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner urged all the participants to extend their help to the Election Commission in conducting ongoing de-novo preparation of last part of electoral rolls meant for service personnel successfully. He laid emphasis on motivating the service personnel so as to ensure enrolment of maximum number of service personnel, as there is still gap between the number of service personnel who have so far submitted the Forms for registration and the actual strength of the services and Forces. Explaining about (Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots System (ETPBS), which is one way electronic transmission of postal ballots to registered service voters at the time of election, Sh. A.K. Joti said that the system was tested in the last general elections of five States, namely, Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh and the lessons learnt were that if complete details of service voters and record offices and updated contact details are available, the ETPBS would function more efficiently. Sh. Joti expressed hope that de-novo exercise apart from increasing the service voters' registration would be helpful in augmenting the success rate of ETPBS as this will record the right address of Record Officers/Commanding Officers and Unit Officers with contact details in electoral database.

Defence Secretary, Secretary East (MEA) and representatives of Ministries, Services and Forces assured the Election Commission to give their full cooperation in the de-novo exercise and taking all efforts to motivate the maximum number of service voters to opt for ETPBS in the future elections.

Regarding educating service voters, Sh. A.K. Joti said that providing voter education is a very significant feature in election process and Election Commission will be providing awareness brochures

and education materials for service personnel in various languages, arrangements should be made to screen short Film in the mess and other convenient places where service personnel get together frequently.

On the occasion, Sh. A.K. Joti, Chief Election Commissioner, Sh. O.P.Rawat, Election Commissioner and Sh. Sunil Arora, Election Commissioner launched a Film on Service Voters registration and ETPBS, prepared by NFDC.

S. K. Das
Under Secretary