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By Speed Post/E-Mail

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 491/AL-Inst/2019 - Communication

Dated: 23.09.2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of

(Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh)

Subject: Bye-election to fill casual vacancy in the Parliamentary Constituency & State Legislative Assemblies of various States/UTs, 2019 - Issue of Authority letters to the media persons and Instructions thereof - regarding

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Commission vide Press Note Nos. ECI/PN/84/2019 & ECI/PN/85/2019 dated 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 respectively has announced the poll schedule for Bye-election to fill casual vacancy in the Parliamentary Constituency & State Legislative Assemblies of various States/UTs and Bye-election to fill two casual vacancies in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

2. In this connection, you are requested to assess the requirement of Authority Letters under Rules 32(C) and 53(1)(b) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 for the aforesaid election in your state and furnish list of persons to whom authority letters are to be issued. Such requests shall be recommended by the Head of the Public Relations Department / Director of Information of State Government in case of media persons outside Delhi. No preference will be given to the representatives of Central or State Government media or those representing foreign press/media and all should be treated alike with due and appropriate care.

3(a). Two passport size photographs should accompany with each request for issuance of Authority Letter. The Chief Electoral Officer who is the officer authorised by the Commission for media persons outside Delhi and for persons deployed by media organizations for conducting election surveys and collecting election data, shall have one copy of the photograph pasted on the Authority Letter and this can be authenticated with the facsimile signature of the issuing authority. The other copy of the photograph can be pasted in the control register. The Authority Letter as such has to be signed personally by the authorized officer. This aspect may please be brought to the notice of all concerned sufficiently in advance so that no one is inconvenienced.

3(b). It may also be clarified to all concerned that an authority letter to enter a "Counting Centre" is not an authority to enter the "Counting Hall(s)" which shall be governed by a separate set of instruction's issued vide Commission's letter No. 491/CNTG/MCS/99 dated 21.09.1999.

3(c). The authority letter for Poll day is valid for all Polling Stations of the Constituency mentioned in authority letter, which an applicant may like to cover. The authority letter clearly

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mentions that photography and videography is strictly prohibited inside the Voting Compartment so as not to violate secrecy of Ballot.

4. While forwarding such requests duly recommended by the above-mentioned authorities, name of the person, full postal address, whether official or non-official and whether Authority Letter is required for (1) polling or (ii) counting or (iii) both should also be indicated clearly. No omnibus Authority Letter shall be issued. You should maintain appropriate control registers at your level.

5. While recommending passes for counting, care should be taken that: -

(i) For electronic media teams, not more than two passes should be given for one counting centre and it is emphasized that each individual member will need a separate authority letter.

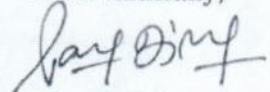
(j) For print media, only one pass per news agency/newspaper should be given for one counting centre.

6. You are requested to screen and scrutinize such requests in accordance with Commission's standing directions issued from time to time on the subject and send your recommendations immediately.

7. Give wide publicity regarding the deadline fixed by the Commission in order to ensure that your requirements must reach the Commission within the deadline i.e. 06.10.2019 positively. Your attention is invited to para 10.1 and 10.2 of the Commission's Order No. 491/96/MCS, dated 27-3-1996, letter No. 491/97/MCS-Vol.II dated 25-3-1997 and Order No.491/2005/MCP dated 07-01-2005, regarding facilities to be provided to media persons for coverage of process of election. Please arrange to give wide publicity to the arrangements.

8. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



(Pawan Diwan)

Under Secretary

Ph. 011-23052133

Mail: [diwaneci@yahoo.co.in](mailto:diwaneci@yahoo.co.in)

बिहार सरकार  
निर्वाचन विभाग

मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बिहार का कार्यालय  
7, सरदार पटेल मार्ग (मैंगल्स रोड), बिहार, पटना-800015

ई-मेल

दूरभाष सं०:- 0612-2217956  
फैक्स:- 0612-2215611/2215978  
ई-मेल:- ceo\_bihar@eci.gov.in

ज्ञापांक:- बी1-3-126/2019- 6905 पटना, दिनांक 26 सितम्बर, 2019 ई०।  
प्रतिलिपि :- निदेशक/प्रधान सचिव, सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, बिहार, पटना  
को सूचना एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

25/9/2019  
(बैजूनाथ कुमार सिंह)

उप मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बिहार

ज्ञापांक:- बी1-3-126/2019- 6905 पटना, दिनांक 26 सितम्बर, 2019 ई०।  
प्रतिलिपि :- प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त, पूर्णिया प्रमंडल, पूर्णिया/कोशी प्रमंडल,  
सहरसा/सारण प्रमंडल, छपरा/भागलपुर प्रमंडल, भागलपुर/दरभंगा प्रमंडल, दरभंगा/जिला  
निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी -सह-जिला पदाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर, दरभंगा, किशनगंज, सहरसा, सिवान,  
भागलपुर एवं बांका/निर्वाची पदाधिकारी-सह-अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी, किशनगंज, निर्वाची  
पदाधिकारी-सह-अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी, सिमरी बख्तियारपुर, निर्वाची पदाधिकारी-सह-उप विकास  
आयुक्त, सिवान, निर्वाची पदाधिकारी-सह-अपर समाहर्ता, भागलपुर, एवं निर्वाची  
पदाधिकारी-सह-उप विकास आयुक्त, बांका को सूचना एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

25/9/2019  
(बैजूनाथ कुमार सिंह)

उप मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बिहार

ज्ञापांक:- बी1-3-126/2019- 6905 पटना, दिनांक 26 सितम्बर, 2019 ई०।  
प्रतिलिपि :- उप मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, पूर्णिया प्रमंडल, पूर्णिया/कोशी प्रमंडल,  
सहरसा/सारण प्रमंडल, छपरा/भागलपुर प्रमंडल, भागलपुर/दरभंगा प्रमंडल, दरभंगा/उप  
निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, समस्तीपुर, दरभंगा, किशनगंज, सहरसा, सिवान, भागलपुर एवं बांका को  
सूचना एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।

25/9/2019  
(बैजूनाथ कुमार सिंह)

उप मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, बिहार