



PUBLIC (ELECTIONS) DEPARTMENT

**POLICY NOTE
2023-2024**

DEMAND NO. 38

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Minister for Water Resources

©
**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2023**

DEMAND NO. 38.02 ELECTIONS

POLICY NOTE

The development of a nation is vested on freedom and rights of the people to choose their representatives. India has been a democratic country since its independence providing the common citizens a chance to assert their opinion, view and choose their representatives.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. They are vested with powers given under Article 324 of the Constitution of India for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Parliament

and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President & Vice - President of India.

The Election Department in the State is headed by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) who executes the instructions of Election Commission of India as per the Representation of the People Act, 1951. At the District level, the District Collectors are designated as the District Election Officers (DEOs) whose function is to carry out the instructions of this Department / Election Commission of India. As far as Chennai District is concerned, the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation is designated as the District Election Officer.

The District Election Officer is assisted by the following Officials:-

- (i) Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) for preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
- (ii) Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) for conduct of elections.
- (iii) Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for each Polling Station.

The Revenue Divisional Officers are generally appointed as the Electoral Registration Officers. Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of Municipal Corporations are appointed as Electoral Registration Officers for constituencies lying in Municipal Corporation areas. For Chennai City, Zonal Officers of Greater Chennai Corporation are

Electoral Registration Officers. The Tahsildars, Municipal Commissioners, Assistant Revenue Officers and Executive Engineers of Corporation zones are notified as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers in the State.

1. Important Events in 2023-2024

1.1. Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2023

According to Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Electoral Rolls of Assembly Constituencies shall be revised before each General Election to the House of the People or the State Legislative Assembly and bye-election for a casual vacancy. It can also be revised in any year in the prescribed manner with reference to the qualifying date, if such

revision has been directed by the Election Commission of India.

Normally annual revision of electoral rolls takes place every year with reference to 1st of January as the qualifying date. Subsequent to the amendments in Section 14(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which deals with the qualifying date determining the eligibility of citizens for registration in electoral rolls, four qualifying dates, i.e. 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October has come into effect in the place of one qualifying date of 1st January from Special Summary Revision, 2023 onwards.

The Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2023 as the

qualifying date was taken up in the period as per following schedule:-

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| Draft Publication | : | 09.11.2022 |
| Last date for filing Claims and Objections | : | 08.12.2022 |
| Final publication of Electoral Roll | : | 05.01.2023 |

During the above revision, the following additions, deletions and modifications of electorate were carried out as per the process prescribed by the Election Commission of India:-

| | Male | Female | Third Gender | Total |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Additions | 4,70,283 | 5,46,225 | 625 | 10,17,133 |
| Deletions | 3,75,520 | 4,26,260 | 356 | 8,02,136 |
| Modifications | 1,13,047 | 1,02,165 | 96 | 2,15,308 |

As per the final publication of electoral rolls on 05.01.2023, there are 6.21 crore electors in the Electoral Rolls as follows:-

| | Male | Female | Third Gender | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| General Electors | 3,04,89,866 | 3,15,43,286 | 8,027 | 6,20,41,179 |
| Service Electors | 71,946 | 1,912 | 0 | 73,858 |
| Total | 3,05,61,812 | 3,15,45,198 | 8,027 | 6,21,15,037 |

1.2. Rationalization of Polling Stations, 2023

The Election Commission of India has directed that, as a pre-revision activity of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2023, rationalization of polling stations and formation of

sections has to be carried out. All the polling stations with electors beyond 1500 electors in both rural and urban areas will invariably be rationalized / modified. The proposals for creation of New Parts having more than 1500 electors / Change of Location / Building / Rearrangement of Sections / Merger / Change of Nomenclature of Polling Stations received from all the District Election Officers, were scrutinized and recommended to the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission of India approved the proposals and the same was communicated to all the District Election Officers with a request to carry out the changes in the Control Table Database as approved by the ECI. After Rationalization of polling stations,

the total number of polling stations increased from 68019 to 68036.

1.3. National Voters' Day, 2023

The Election Commission of India has been celebrating the 25th January of every year as National Voters' Day (NVD) from 2011. The theme for the 13th National Voters' Day, 2023 is **"Nothing like Voting, I vote for sure"**.

The 13th National Voters' Day was celebrated at the State level, District level and in Polling Station Locations across the State. This year the State level function was held in Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai and presided over by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu on 25.01.2023. In view of the celebration of

National Voters' day, 2023, various competitions were conducted among the School and College students, Special School Children and Self Help Groups. As part of awareness programmes, the winners of the competitions were awarded in the State level National Voters' day celebration. A Tableau representing the Public (Elections) Department was also depicted in the Republic Day Celebration, 2023. Informative Posters, Banners, Display boards etc., about enrolment procedure, Toll free Number 1950, Collection of Aadhaar from electors, Voters' pledge were distributed and pasted in high footfall places to invite the attention of electors on the day of National Voters' Day, 2023.

1.4. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP)

Based on the guidelines of Election Commission of India, various SVEEP activities are being implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu for creating awareness among the people for enrolment as electors. Many Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, NGOs, CSOs coordinated with the Office of Chief Electoral Officer and at the district level as partnership agencies to achieve 100% enrolment of eligible electors. As part of SVEEP activities, various competitions were conducted for School, College Students, Various disabled children in Special School and to Self Help Groups like

Drawing, Singing, Online Quiz etc., to create awareness about the conduct of Special Summary Revision, 2023. Apart from that, posters and SVEEP content regarding Timeline of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2023 , Linking of Aadhaar, Four qualifying dates for enrolment and related activities were uploaded in Social Media handles of Chief Electoral Officer for a wider reach.

1.5.Bye-Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 98.Erode (East) Assembly Constituency

The Election Commission of India had announced the poll schedule for the Bye-Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 98. Erode (East) Assembly Constituency, with

polling on 27.02.2023 and Counting on 02.03.2023.

During the above Election, the guidelines of Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure control of Election Commission of India were enforced. One General Observer, one Police Observer and one Expenditure Observer were deputed by the Election Commission of India.

Security Plan and Force Deployment Plan were prepared to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections. Five Companies of Central Armed Police Forces were deployed in the above constituency and polling stations identified as critical & vulnerable. Based on the District Deployment Plan, it was ensured that all polling stations were

covered with adequate static duty forces, reinforced by necessary mobile patrolling at the level of "zones". After poll, two Companies of CAPF were retained for guarding of strong rooms where polled EVMs and VVPATs were kept.

The above bye - election was completed in a free and fair manner, without any untoward incident. The voting percentage for the bye-election to 98. Erode (East) Assembly Constituency was 74.96%.

1.6. Election Observers

The Election Commission of India had announced the poll schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu

Legislative Assembly from 98. Erode (East) Assembly Constituency on 18.01.2023. In this connection, I.A.S. and one I.P.S officers were deputed as Central Observers by the Election Commission of India from Tamil Nadu to other States.

1.7. Construction of Warehouses for storage of EVMs and VVPATs

The Election Commission of India had decided to create adequate and appropriate warehousing facilities for the proper storage and safe custody of EVMs and VVPATs at the field level. Accordingly, the Commission had directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) to construct dedicated warehouses in every district headquarters for ensuring proper storage of

allocated EVMs / VVPATs with fool-proof safety and security measures. Construction has already been completed in 31 districts (out of the earlier 32 districts) and is going on in Chennai. Regarding the construction of dedicated warehouses in the newly formed districts of Ranipet, Tenkasi, Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Tirupattur and Kallakurichi districts, action has been initiated and is in process.

1.8. I.T. Infrastructure

The Election Commission of India has made intensive use of Information Technology by deploying many Computer applications to manage the Electoral data in an efficient and effective manner. As directed by the Election Commission

of India, necessary infrastructure in terms of equipment and manpower has been positioned in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer and in all the offices of the District Election Officers.

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, a permanent Call Centre (4 seater) has been functioning in the Office of Chief Electoral Officer with a toll free telephone number 1800 4252 1950 (ECI Toll Free No.) throughout the year.

1.9. Issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)

According to the ECI instructions, the Photo Identity cards with new security features as PVC + PETG have been introduced, instead of PVC.

The PVC + PETG card are being printed for the eligible voters during the Continuous Updation period, 2022 as well as Special Summary Revision, 2023, 21.99 lakh new electors have been included in the electoral roll. The distribution of PVC + PETG to these new electors are being sent by Speed Post through the Department of Posts.

2. Budget Allocation

The expenditure on Elections is booked under the major head "2015.00. Elections" under Demand No. 38.02. For the Financial Year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.332,76,66,000/- (Rupees Three hundred and thirty two crore seventy six lakh and sixty six thousand only) is provided towards expenditure for the Pay and Allowances of

the Officers and Staff sanctioned for election work, preparation, updation and Printing of Photo Electoral Roll, issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC).

Details of estimates for expenditure head-wise for some of the important items are furnished below.

102. ELECTORAL OFFICERS

AA. Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies

The pay and allowances of the officers and staff sanctioned for election work in the office of Chief Electoral Officer and District Election Officers, their Travel expenses, Office expenses, Contingency expenditure, Telephone charges etc.,

are met under this sub-head. A sum of Rs.33,24,38,000/- (Rupees Thirty three crore twenty four lakh and thirty eight thousand only) has been provided in BE 2023-2024. 50 percent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

103. PREPARATION AND PRINTING OF PHOTO ELECTORAL ROLLS

AA. Legislative Assembly Constituencies

The expenditure for the preparation including updating and Printing of Photo Electoral Rolls of all the Assembly Constituencies in the State is debited under this sub head of account. It also includes the pay and allowances of the temporary staff sanctioned for the above work, lump sum remuneration payable to the Booth Level Officers,

cost of stationery, printing charges, etc. Funds are also required for the pay and allowances of one Assistant and one Record Clerk appointed in the Tamil Nadu Archives on a permanent basis for the upkeep of the Electoral Rolls of the Assembly Constituencies. Expenditure related to cost of IT infrastructure, Maintenance of Electoral Roll database and National Voters' Day are also booked under this sub-head. A sum of Rs.159,11,46,000/- (Rupees One hundred and fifty nine crore eleven lakh and forty six thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. 50 percent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

AC. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES

The expenditure relating to the Preparation and Printing of Photo Electoral Rolls for the Council Constituencies in the State is debited under this sub-head of account. A Token provision of Rs.12,000/- (Rupees Twelve thousand only) has been provided under this sub-head.

104.CHARGES FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS FOR LOK SABHA AND STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHEN HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY

AA.Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly when held simultaneously

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) systems meant for use in Lok Sabha and

Legislative Assembly Elections are stored in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Regulated Marketing Committee Godowns on rental basis at Ranipet, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Districts and in the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation Godowns at Tiruvallur, Chennai, Virudhachalam, Kallakurichi, Nagapattinam and Thoothukudi. Expenditure for the payment of rent for these Godowns are also booked under this sub-head. A sum of Rs.2,72,51,000/- (Rupees Two crore seventy two lakh and fifty one thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. 50 percent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

105. CHARGES FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS TO PARLIAMENT

AA. Bye Elections

Expenditure incurred in connection with bye-elections to Parliamentary Constituencies from Tamil Nadu is debited under this sub-head. A token provision of Rs.18,000/- (Rupees Eighteen thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. The General Elections to 17th Lok Sabha were held on 18.04.2019. There is no seat vacant at present in the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu.

AB. Election to Lok Sabha

The expenditure relating to the conduct of General Elections are debited under this sub head

of account. The General Elections to 17th Lok Sabha were held on 18.04.2019.

The expenditure such as payment of remuneration to polling / counting personnel, Micro Observers, drivers of the vehicles used for conduct of election, expenditure on Ex-servicemen / retired Police personnel, who are deployed for election bandobust duty, salary for the special / temporary staff sanctioned in the Chief Electoral Officer's office and in the districts, honorarium for the officers and staff in Chief Electoral Officer's office and in districts, expenditure on the Observers, expenditure on barricading in counting centres, expenditure on other contingencies are the main items of expenditure borne under the

above head. A sum of Rs.121,82,39,000/- (Rupees One hundred and twenty one crore eighty two lakh and thirty nine thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. The entire expenditure relating to General Elections to Lok Sabha are borne by the Government of India. It is initially debited under this sub-head and subsequently reimbursed fully by the Government of India.

106. CHARGES FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS TO STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURE

AA. State Legislative Assembly

The expenditure relating to the conduct of General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Bye-Elections to the State Legislative Assembly is debited under this sub-

head of account. A sum of Rs.55,28,000/- (Rupees Fifty five lakh and twenty eight thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. The State Government will bear the entire expenditure incurred under this sub-head. The General Elections to 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was held on 06.04.2021.

The Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 98.Erode (East) Assembly Constituency was held on 27.02.2023. An amount of Rs.3,04,17,470/- (Rupees Three crore four lakh seventeen thousand four hundred and seventy only) towards the expenditure such as payment of remuneration to polling / counting personnel, barricading and lighting arrangements in counting

centre, remuneration to the BEL Engineers during First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs / VVPATs, expenditure on other contingencies. No seat is vacant in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at present.

AB. State Legislative Council

The expenditure relating to the conduct of Elections to the State Legislative Council is debited under this sub head of account. A token provision of Rs.17,000/- (Rupees Seventeen thousand only) has been provided under this sub-head.

108. ISSUE OF PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS TO VOTERS

AA. Scheme of Issue of Photo Identity Cards to Voters

The expenditure for issue of Electors Photo Identity Cards to Voters is debited under this Head of Account for which a sum of Rs.15,30,17,000/- (Rupees Fifteen crore thirty lakh and seventeen thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2023-2024. 50 percent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

The election machinery in our State under the leadership of Election Commission of India is carrying out its responsibilities and is taking all the important steps to have clean electoral rolls for conduct of free and fair elections. Government of

Tamil Nadu is also extending its full co-operation in this onerous task to the Election Commission of India.

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