

PRESS RELEASE

The Election Commission of India had introduced IN 2006 the concept of appointing Booth Level Officers to ensure the fidelity of electoral rolls. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are appointed by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) with the approval of the District Election Officers on a permanent basis. The Booth Level Officers are required to assist the Electoral Registration Officers in improving the quality and accuracy of the electoral roll. One Booth Level Officer may be normally entrusted with one or two Polling Stations area depending on the availability of officials in a particular area. The Booth Level Officers are drafted mainly from the field staff of Revenue Department (VAOs) / Local Bodies / Teaching Staff. They are required to make field visits periodically to the areas assigned to interact with the local people for obtaining information about the missing and surplus (dead/shifted) names, etc. and for maximizing the EPIC coverage and their proper distribution to the persons concerned.

As the Booth Level Officers have to perform the above duties in addition to their normal duties in their parent office, and their work involves door-to-door visits in the area assigned to them, the Commission had earlier indicated (2007) an amount of Rs.750 per annum as lump sum payable to BLO per polling station area. For BLOs in-charge of two Polling Stations, an amount of Rs.1200/- and for three Polling Stations, an amount of Rs.1500/- was indicated. Subsequently, in February 2009, the Commission prescribed an amount of Rs.1500 per annum to each BLO having one Polling Station area assigned to him with some incentives if the area assigned was two or three Polling Stations. The subject came up for consideration in the conference of the CEOs convened by the Election Commission held in February 2010. It was expressed the amount of remuneration needed to be enhanced further taking into consideration the activities to be undertaken by the BLOs throughout the year related to enrolment of voters, revision of electoral rolls, achieving 100% Photo Electoral Roll (PER) and increasing the coverage of EPICs issued.

4. The Commission decided that the amount of remuneration of the BLOs, needed to be enhanced taking into consideration the activities to be undertaken by the BLOs throughout the year related to the enrolment of voters and fixed as follows:-

Fixed component

	New Rates proposed by ECI
i) BLO in-charge of one Polling Station :	Rs.3000/- per annum
ii) BLO in-charge of two Polling Stations :	Rs.3000/- plus Rs.750/- per additional Part (Polling Station) per annum
iii) BLO in-charge of three or more Polling Stations :	

In addition to the fixed component, a **Variable component** at Rs.4/- for each Photo Electoral Roll (PER) entry of photograph made, if PER percentage in the concerned Part is less than 90% and at Rs.5/- if PER percentage in the concerned Part is 90% or above, for collecting the photos of residual electors. Orders are being issued accordingly.

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