

Following reports that in Madurai district a very large number of claims have been filed in a very short period, the Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Dr.K. Satyagopal, IAS., was deputed to conduct an enquiry. He has found that in some applications (i) important details had not been filled up in Form 6, (ii) applications had been filed furnishing the relative's address, (iii) the applicants said that they had not filed any application for inclusion and (iv) in yet some other cases it was found that the applicant was not living at the address furnished in the application. It has now come to notice that there is an organized attempt to include a large number of electors already enrolled in one constituency in neighbouring constituencies of Madurai city.

2. The Election Commission has emphasized that the process of continuous updation has to be monitored on a daily basis so as to ensure that the facility of continuous updation is not misused by including a large number of new persons in the roll or eliminating the names of the existing electors. No suo-motu deletion should be done except in confirmed death cases and no inclusion should also be done suo-motu, that is, without the filing of claim by the applicant himself / herself or a member of the family in Form 6.

3) With a view to thwarting such attempts at stuffing the electoral rolls, it has been decided that before field verification and processing of

the claims is taken up, data entry will be done Assembly Constituency-wise in the usual format of the electoral roll and this database for all the claims received along with all the applications for inclusion should be sent to the Chief Electoral Officer's office for scrutiny (including check for multiple entries).

4) Field-verification and further processing by BLOs / other supervisory officers can be taken up only after the Chief Electoral Officer's office examines all the claims and subjects the database to scrutiny from the angle of multiple entries. For the present, the verification and processing may be taken up only for cases of mismatch of images and errors in regard to elector's entries.

5) Only after scrutiny of all applications in the Chief Electoral Officer's office and filtering out of cases of multiple entries, the field verification can be taken up for the claims received. To ensure transparency, the process of field verification will have to be videographed.

6) The DEOs have been instructed to send a daily report on the receipt of claims apart from the weekly report in the prescribed format. The Additional Chief Electoral Officer will be doing verification again shortly in Madurai district.

ISSUED BY -DIPR ,CHENNAI-09

Chief Electoral Officer,
Tamil Nadu