

**PUBLIC (ELECTIONS.IV) DEPARTMENT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit of the EVM shall contain such particulars as the Commission may specify. Similarly, Rules 22 and 30 provide, inter alia, that the particulars on the postal ballot paper and ordinary ballot paper shall be as specified by the Commission. In terms of the abovementioned Rules 22, 30 and 49B, the Commission has specified the particulars to be printed on the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit and the postal ballot paper. The particulars so specified at present are the serial numbers for the candidates, names of candidates and the election symbol allotted to each candidate and a panel for 'None of the Above' after the name of the last candidate.

2. The Commission has noted that there are many cases where candidates with same or similar names contest from the same constituency. Although appropriate suffixes are added to the names of candidates in the event of two or more candidates having same name, the Commission considers that additional measures are required for removing confusion in the minds of electors at the time of voting.

3. The Commission having considered all aspects of the matter and decided in partial modification of its existing directions under Rule 22, Rule 30 and Rule 49B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, hereby specifies that for elections to be held from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 onwards, the postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers and the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVM shall, in addition to the particulars as per the existing directions, also contain the photograph of the candidate. The photograph of the candidate shall be printed in the panel for the name of the candidate and shall appear on the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate. The size of the photograph printed on the ballot paper shall be 2 cm.X2.5 cm. (two cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height). A sample ballot paper for election to Lok Sabha is enclosed.

4. The above direction for printing of photograph of candidate on the ballot paper shall also apply in relation to elections by Assembly members and elections from Council constituencies.

5. The candidates at every election shall be required to submit their photograph conforming to the above requirements/specifications alongwith their nomination papers and, in any case, latest by the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The photograph should bear the signature of the candidate/election agent on the reverse side of the photograph. When the photograph is submitted, the candidate/election agent/proposer submitting the photograph shall be asked to give a declaration as per the format stating that the photograph being submitted is that of the candidate (mentioning the name and address) taken during the period of preceding 3 months.

6. When the nomination is filed, if the photograph of the candidate is not submitted, the RO shall give a notice asking the candidate to submit the photograph latest by the date of scrutiny of nomination. In the same Notice, it shall also be added that if the photograph is not submitted, his/her photograph will not be printed on the ballot paper. If any candidate still fails or refuses to give his photograph, that candidate will not have his photograph printed on the ballot paper. It may be added that non-submission of the photograph by the candidate shall **NOT** be a ground for rejection of the nomination of the candidate.

7. The Returning Officer shall display a list of validly nominated candidates with the photographs of the candidates against their names on the day following the date fixed for scrutiny of nominations. The Returning Officer shall inform the candidates at the time of scrutiny that the photographs to be printed on ballot paper will be displayed on his notice board on the next day (time may also be specified). If there is any error in the photograph or other particulars, the candidates/others will get an opportunity to point out the same to the Returning Officer for rectifying the error.

8. The above directions shall be applicable for elections to be held from 01.05.2015.

**CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
TAMIL NADU.**

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