



PUBLIC (ELECTIONS) DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE

2022-2023

DEMAND NO. 38

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Minister for Water Resources

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

2022

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 2022-2023

1.1. Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2022

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 rolls takes place every year with reference to 1st of January as the qualifying date.

The Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2022 as the qualifying date was taken up in the period as per the following schedule:-

Draft Publication	:	01.11.2021
Last date for filing Claims and Objections	:	30.11.2021
Final publication of Electoral Roll	:	05.01.2022

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	4,56,071	5,60,735	650	10,17,456
Deletions	1,46,979	1,39,007	188	2,86,174
Modifications	1,40,328	1,41,378	93	2,81,799

As per the final publication of electoral rolls on 05.01.2022, there are 6.36 crore electors in the Electoral Rolls:-

	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	3,12,26,759	3,23,91,250	7,804	6,36,25,813
Service Electors	71,693	1,892	0	73,585
Total	3,12,98,452	3,23,93,142	7,804	6,36,99,398

1.2. Rationalization of Polling Stations, 2022

The Election Commission of India has directed that, as a pre-revision activity of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2022, 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 Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2022,

the total number of polling stations were increased from 67,775 to 68,019.

1.3. National Voters' Day, 2022

The Election Commission of India has been celebrating the 25th January of every year as National Voters' Day (NVD). The theme of the National Voters' Day, 2022 is **“Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative”**.

During the 12th National Voters' Day function held by the Election Commission of India at New Delhi on 25.01.2022, the Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu Thiru Satyabrata Sahoo, I.A.S., was awarded the National award under the category of Best performing in IT initiatives for the year 2021. Awards were also conferred on Thiru V.Vishnu,

I.A.S., District Election Officer and District Collector, Tirunelveli for IT initiatives, Dr.K.Senthil Raj, I.A.S., District Election Officer and District Collector, Thoothukudi for Voter Awareness, Thiru Pratik Tayal, I.A.S., Returning Officer, Ambasamudram Assembly Constituency for Election Management to Rationalization of Polling Materials, Thiru Pravin Kumar, I.R.S., Director General of Income Tax, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and Thiru P.S.Sivasankaran, I.R.S., Nodal Officer of Income Tax for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for Expenditure Monitoring.

The National Voters' Day is celebrated at State Level, District Level and at every Polling Station Location in the State. This year National

Voters' Day witnessed 31,241 functions held throughout the State. Informative Posters, Banners, Display boards etc., about enrolment procedure, Toll free Number 1950, Voters' pledge were distributed and pasted in high footfall places to invite the attention of electors on the day of National Voters' Day, 2022.

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

Based on the guidelines of the 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 to School, College students and to General Public like Drawing, Singing, SMS Quiz and Online Quiz etc., to create awareness about the conduct of Special Summary Revision, 2022. Apart from that posts regarding Timeline of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2022 and related activities were uploaded in Social Media handles of the office of Chief Electoral Officer for wide reach.

1.5. Election Observers

The Election Commission of India announced the poll schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, 2022 on 08.01.2022. In this connection, 60 IAS, 14 IPS and 35 IRS officers were deputed by the Election Commission of India from Tamil Nadu as Election Observers.

1.6. 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 and VVPATs with fool-proof safety and security measures. The State Government had earlier sanctioned Rs.120,87,42,000/- (Rupees One hundred and twenty crore eighty seven lakh and forty two thousand only) for the constructions of EVMs and VVPATs warehouse in 30 Districts (except Chennai and Madurai) and also Rs.13,35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen crore and thirty five lakh only) for the constructions of EVMs and VVPATs warehouse in Madurai and Chennai District. 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.

1.7. 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 the offices of all the District Election Officers.

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, permanent Call Centre

(4 seater) has been functioning with a toll free telephone number 1800 4252 1950 (ECI Toll Free No.) throughout the year in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

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

During the Continuous Updation period, 2021 as well as Special Summary Revision, 2022, 18.64 lakh new electors have been included in the electoral roll. The PVC EPICs to these new electors was issued by March, 2022 through Speed Post of Department of Post. Moreover, the replacement EPICs can be obtained at any time from the Arasu e-Sevai Centres, free of cost along with Form-001

and also from the Kiosks installed in Office of all the District Election Officers.

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 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.199,34,87,000/- (Rupees One hundred and ninety nine crore thirty four lakh and eighty seven 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 with reference to 01.01.2023 as the qualifying date, 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.34,17,07,000/- (Rupees Thirty four crore seventeen lakh and seven thousand only) has been provided in BE 2022-2023. 50 per cent 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, the cost of stationery and 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.149,26,08,000/- (Rupees One hundred and forty nine crore twenty six lakh and eight thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. 50 per cent 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.11,000/- (Rupees Eleven 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 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.2,35,56,000/- (Rupees Two crore thirty five lakh and fifty six thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. 50 per cent 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.16,000/- (Rupees Sixteen thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. 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. A token provision of Rs.24,000/-

(Rupees Twenty four thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. The General Elections to 17th Lok Sabha were held on 18.04.2019. No seat is vacant in the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu, at present. 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 in full 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.1,05,26,000/- (Rupees One crore five lakh and twenty six thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. The General Elections to 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was held on 06.04.2021. No seat is vacant in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at present. The State Government will bear the entire expenditure incurred under this sub-head.

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.19,000/- (Rupees Nineteen 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. A sum of Rs.12,50,20,000/- (Rupees Twelve crore fifty lakh and twenty thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2022-2023. 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred under this sub head would be borne 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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