



PUBLIC (ELECTIONS) DEPARTMENT

**POLICY NOTE
2024-2025**

DEMAND NO. 38

**DURAIMURUGAN
Minister for Water Resources**

©

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2024**

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 2024-2025

1.1. Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2024

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.

The Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2024 as the qualifying date was taken up in the period as per following schedule:

Draft Publication	:	27.10.2023
Last date for filing Claims and Objections	:	09.12.2023
Final publication of Electoral Roll	:	22.01.2024

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	6,17,623	7,43,803	462	13,61,888
Deletions	2,89,818	3,12,737	182	6,02,737
Modifications	1,64,487	1,59,343	167	3,23,997

As per the final publication of electoral rolls on 22.01.2024, there are 6.19 crore electors in the Electoral Rolls:

	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	3,03,96,330	3,14,85,724	8,294	6,18,90,348
Service Electors	69,372	1,901	0	71,273
Total	3,04,65,702	3,14,87,625	8,294	6,19,61,621

1.2. Rationalization of Polling Stations with Photo, 2024

The Election Commission of India has directed that, as a pre-revision activity of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2024, 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 Election Commission of India. After the Rationalization of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral

Rolls, 2024, the total number of polling stations were increased from 68,036 to 68,144.

1.3. Updation of Electoral Rolls for the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye Election to TNLA from 233. Vilavancode Assembly Constituency

As per the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Electoral Rolls remain in a State of continuous updating, except for a short period between the last date for making nominations and the date of completion of elections. Thus, during the continuous updation period from 22.01.2024 upto 27.03.2024 (the last date for filing nominations), the following additions, deletions and modifications in Rolls took place:

	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
Additions	2,02,076	2,12,267	166	4,14,509
Deletions	69,780	75,681	35	1,45,496
Modifications	1,68,257	1,56,707	84	3,25,048

As per the rolls used for the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency from 233. Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, there were 6.24 crore electors in the State as follows: -

	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
General Electors	3,06,05,793	3,17,19,665	8,467	6,23,33,925
Service Electors	69,115	1,907	0	71,022
Total	3,06,74,908	3,17,21,572	8,467	6,24,04,947

1.4. a) General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024

18th General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 was held on 19.04.2024 and results were declared after the counting held on 04.06.2024.

b) Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency

The Election Commission of India had announced the poll schedule for the Bye-Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, with polling on 19.04.2024 and Counting on 04.06.2024.

1.5. National Voters' Day, 2024

The Election Commission of India celebrates 25th January, the day of its

Constitution, as National Voters' Day (NVD) every year commencing from 25th January, 2011. The theme of the National Voter's Day, 2024 is **"Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure"** which envisaged active and participative voters during elections.

The 14th 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 25.01.2024. In view of the celebration of National Voters' day, 2024, various competitions were conducted among the School and College students, PwDs and Self Help Groups and as part

of awareness, 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, 2024. 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.

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

Based on the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, various SVEEP activities were implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu for

creating awareness among the people for enrolment as electors and to urge them to exercise their franchise as per their conscience, i.e., '**Ethical Voting**' in the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024. Many Government Departments like Tamil Development and Information Department, Metro Rail, All India Radio, Doordarshan etc., and Public Sector Undertakings co-ordinated with the Office of Chief Electoral Officer and also at the district level as partnership agencies to achieve 100% enrolment of eligible electors.

Further, newspaper advertisements on "**cVIGIL App and 1950 - Voter Helpline Number**" in Tamil and English version was published in all leading Newspapers in connection

with the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024.

The Voters' participation is an integral part of election management. Hence, the Election Commission of India has taken concrete efforts under SVEEP for spreading awareness message such as **"Elections - The biggest festival and Pride of the nation"** (தேர்தல் திருவிழா - தேசத்தின் பெருவிழா) by conducting signature campaigns, rallies, cultural programmes etc., among the public to cast their votes without any inducement.

In order to promote ethical voting with a view to improve the confidence of all stakeholders, the complaint monitoring

mechanism was streamlined and the '**cVIGIL**' app was popularized and timely action on the complaints received were ensured.

In addition to the appointment of one SVEEP Nodal Officer in each district to look after the SVEEP activities, a District Level Core Committee for SVEEP with District Election Officer as Chairman and other stake holder Department as members were formed in all districts. The field level activities among Tribals, Third gender and PwDs were conducted.

2. Some of the important initiatives taken during the General Elections to Lok Sabha are as follows:

i) Use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

There are 1,58,892 Nos. of Ballot Units, 81,473 Control Units and 87,188 No. of BEL make EVMs & VVPATs (M3) available in Tamil Nadu.

The details of EVMs and VVPATs used during the General Elections to Lok Sabha and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, 2024 is as follows:

General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024

EVM Model	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Machines used		
		BU	CU	VVPAT
BEL M-3	68,321	1,32,591	68,321	68,321

Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, 2024

EVM Model	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Machines used		
		BU	CU	VVPAT
BEL M-3	272	272	272	272

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the VVPATs were used with EVMs at all polling stations during the above Elections.

ii) Postal Ballot Facility for Absentee Voters

Following categories of Absentee voters, in pursuance of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2019, and the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2024 were given the facility of voting through postal ballot (PB) paper:

- i) Senior citizens (above 85 years of age)
- ii) Persons with disability flagged in the electoral roll and
- iii) Electors in Essential Service

The above facility was implemented during the General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024. An Absentee Voter wishing to vote by postal ballot has to make application to the Returning Officer (RO) of the constituency concerned, in Form 12-D, giving all requisite

particulars. Such application seeking postal ballot facility should reach to the RO during the period from date of announcement of election to five days following the date of notification of the election concerned.

Accordingly, 1,16,146 Form 12-D were received from the Absentee Voters. After scrutiny of the Returning Officers (RO), 1,16,146 No. of Postal Ballots were issued to the Absentee Voters.

Separate teams of poll officers visited the houses of the Senior Citizens (above 85 years of age) and Persons with Disability for collections of postal ballots. Totally, 1,08,849 No. of Postal Ballots were received

from the Senior Citizens and PwD Electors.

The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Category	No. of electors in the category	No. of Form 12-D issued	No. of Form 12-D received Back from the Electors & Accepted by RO	No. of Postal Ballot Issued	Total Postal Ballot received from the Absentee Voters
1.	Senior Citizens (85+)	6,14,002	3,59,525	71,805	71,805	67,165
2.	Person with Disability	4,61,771	3,33,164	44,295	44,295	41,639
3.	Elector in Essential Services	0	0	46	46	45
Total		10,75,773	6,92,689	1,16,146	1,16,146	1,08,849

iii) Expenditure Control Guidelines

To curtail the abuse of money power, an elaborate election expenditure monitoring mechanism was put in place by the Election Commission of India for conduct of free and fair elections.

The focus of election expenditure monitoring is, two fold. The first is election expenditure which is permitted and its truthful reporting and the second being expenditure which are not permitted under law. The Election Expenditure Monitoring System ensures that all actual expenditures are included in the candidates' election account and action is taken against the wrong doers under the relevant provisions of the law, including lodging of complaints before the police and competent Magistrate, if required.

To ensure the above, various teams for Election Expenditure Monitoring such as 754 Flying Squads, 718 Static Surveillance Teams, 383 Video Surveillance Teams, 234 Video Viewing

Teams and 234 Accounting Teams were formed in connection with the General Elections to Lok Sabha and bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, 2024 in the State of Tamil Nadu. In addition to the above, 58 Expenditure Observers and 234 Assistant Expenditure Observers were put in place to look after the Election Expenditure Monitoring. The above teams seized cash of Rs.179.95 crore and non-cash items worth Rs.186.55 crore during the General Elections to Lok Sabha and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, 2024 as per the Standard Operating Procedure of Seizure of cash and other items.

iv) Strict Implementation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

The Election Commission of India is mandated to conduct the General Elections in a free and fair manner. Hence, the Election Commission of India, initiated several measures to implement the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) strictly.

The poll schedule for the General Elections to Lok Sabha along with Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency from 233.Vilavancode AC, 2024 was announced on 16.03.2024 and the MCC came into force with immediate effect.

v) Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), State Police, Ex-servicemen, Retired Police Personnel and NSS Volunteers

Security Plan and Force Deployment have always ensured free, fair and peaceful elections. Particular attention was given to deploy CAPFs in constituencies and polling stations identified as critical / vulnerable for peaceful elections. During General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024, 190 companies of CAPF were utilized. Based on the District Deployment Plan, it was ensured that all polling stations are covered with adequate static duty forces reinforced by necessary mobile patrolling at the level of "zones". As far as the State Forces are concerned, 70,608 Nos. of Taluk and Armed Reserve Police and 7,110 Nos. of Tamil Nadu Special Police (TSP) were used. After poll, 15 companies were retained for guarding of strong rooms located at 39 Counting Centres

where polled EVMs were kept.

During General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024, to bridge the gap of shortage of Police Force the services of 12220 Ex-Servicemen, 1931 Retired Police Personnel were utilised for election bandobust duties during the period of 4 days from 17.04.2024 to 20.04.2024.

vi) Observers

During the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024, 39 General Observers, 20 Police Observers, 58 Expenditure Observers and One Special Expenditure Observer were deputed by the Election Commission of India to Tamil Nadu. The Election Commission of India also appointed 58 Counting Observers to oversee the Counting of votes.

vii) Training to all Returning Officers, Polling Personnel and Counting Personnel

In order to conduct the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 in an effective manner, training was given at different levels viz.,(i) Training at Election Commission of India (ii) Training at State Head Quarters and (iii) Training at District level. The details of trainings conducted at various levels by the Election Commission of India, the office of Chief Electoral Officer and by the office of District Election Officers are as follows:

Sl. No	Category of Personnel trained	No. of Personnel trained & Batches	Training Period	Trained by
1	State Level Masters Trainers (SLMTs) -			
	Stage 1	114/ 1 batch	16th June, 2023	CEO office

	Stage-2	87/8 batches	19th June to 8th July, 2023	ECI
	Stage-3	109/1 batch	3rd August, 2023	CEO office
2	SLMT to NLMT	35/5 batches	21st to 26th August, 2023	ECI
3	Certification Programme for ROs/DEOs	43/5 batches	5th December to 19th December, 2023	ECI
4	Certification programme for AROs	468/5 batches	2nd January to 9th February, 2024	ECI
5	ALMTs	2252/District wise	Last week of February	DEO
6	Sector officer	7224/District wise	First week of March	ROs / AROs
7	MCMC Teams	266/District wise	Third week of March	DEO / RO
8	DDO/ADM	38/District wise	1st week of March	RO / DLMT
9	MCC/EEM	6084/District wise	1st week of March	RO / Expenditure Nodal Officer
10	Videographers	1170/District wise	2nd week of March	ROs / AROs
11	Police Officers	7224/District wise	1st week of March	ROs / AROs

12	Booth Level Officers	68144/District wise	2 nd week of March	AROs
13	IT Staff (District level)	911/District wise	2 nd week of March	Programmer/ IT Nodal Officer
14	Polling parties	332233/District wise	3 rd to 4 th week of March	ALMTs / DLMTs/ AROs
15	Hands on EVM	136288/District wise	3 rd week of March	AROs
16	Pre-counting Module in ETPBMS	38/District wise	13 th May 2024	ECI
17	Counting Staff	9362/District wise	23 rd May to 25 th May, 2024	ROs / AROs
18	Micro observers	4524/District wise	24 th May to 27 th MAY, 2024	ROs / AROs

viii) Formation of District Level and State Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee to monitor the telecast / broadcast of political advertisements and Paid News cases in Media

The Media Certification and Monitoring Committee was formed in every district as well as in the Chief Electoral Officer's office to monitor the telecast / broadcast of political advertisements of candidates and political

parties in Media. These Committees were empowered to issue certification for the advertisements of political nature before its coming in Broadcast / Telecast in Radio / Television / Cable channels and Social Media. The District Committees also monitored advertisements with political nature and took action on the complaints of Paid News cases. The appeal against the decision of District Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee on Paid News could be filed before the State Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee.

ix) Use of Information Technology

As directed by the Election Commission of India, necessary infrastructure in terms of

equipment and manpower have been facilitated in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer and in all the offices of the District Election Officers.

a. IT Applications

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 and Bye Election to TNLA from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, the following applications were used during the election process:

IT & ICT initiatives by ECI:

1. Encore Nominations
2. Encore/Suvidha Permissions
3. cVIGIL
4. ESMS – Election Seizure Management System
5. EMS – EVM Management System

6. ETPBS – Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System
7. Voter turnout Mobile Application
8. SAKSHAM Mobile Application
9. Encore – Counting
10. Encore – EEMS (Election Expenditure Monitoring System)
11. NGSP – National Grievance Service Portal

IT & ICT initiatives by CEO:

1. Nominations – CEO’s Portal
2. Accessible Form 7A in CEO Website for Visually Impaired Citizen.
3. Portal to know your PC/Candidate
4. Portal for Online tracking of Postal Ballot issued and received
5. Star Campaigner Permissions
6. Monitoring Awareness of EVM/VVPAT
7. Awareness of SVEEP
8. Portal for obtaining daily MCC/Seizure Reports

9. Paid News of MCMC
10. Randomization of Polling Personnel
11. Randomization of Police Personnel
12. Randomization of Micro Observers
13. Randomization of Counting Personnel
14. GARUDA–GPS Tracking of FST/SST & EVMs/VVPATs carrying Vehicles
15. PMS (Poll Turnout Monitoring System)
Polling Stations - Queue Status
16. Web Streaming of Poll proceedings

b. State Contact Centre (SCC)

As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, in the office of Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu, a permanent 3 seater State Contact Centre has been functioning with a toll-free number 1800 4252 1950 throughout the year, to attend the calls pertaining to CEO's office.

c. District Contact Centre (DCC)

As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, in the office of District Election Officer, a permanent 2 seater District Contact Centre has been functioning with a toll-free number 1950 throughout the year, to attend the calls pertaining to DEO's office.

d. GPS based Vehicle Tracking System

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, GPS with Vehicle Tracking Systems were fixed in the vehicles involved in Flying Squad Teams, State Surveillance Teams, Video Surveillance Teams, EVMs and VVPATs transportation vehicles, Zonal

Party Vehicles and EVM Return vehicles on rental basis to track their location through tender process.

e. Web Streaming

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, Web Streaming was carried out in the 44,801 polling stations (which includes 8,137 Vulnerable and Critical Polling Stations).

f. Distribution of Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC)

As per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India vide Letter No. 22/2/INST/ECI/FUNC/ERD/ER/2014, dated:

07.04.2017, the CEO's office made arrangements to deliver all the PVC EPICs to the electors through the Speed Post of Indian Department of Posts for the first time in the State of Tamil Nadu. During the Special Summary Revision, 2024, there are 17,76,237 PVC EPI cards were printed and distributed to the electors through the Speed Post; similarly for the Continuous Updation period (i.e., from 10.12.2023 to ten days before last date of filing of nomination) 9,15,548 PVC EPI cards were printed and distributed to the electors through the Speed Post to enable them to cast their votes during the Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency.

g. Voter Information Slips

The Election Commission of India has decided to issue Voter Information Slip to the Voters in place of Photo Voter Slip. As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, the distribution of the Voter Information Slips were completed five days prior to the day of poll (i.e. on 13.04.2024) through the Booth Level Officers.

h. Distribution of Braille EPICs

The Election Commission of India in its letter dated 19.03.2019 has instructed to issue Braille EPIC to all the visually impaired electors. This Department has distributed Braille featured EPICs to 15,503 Visually Impaired Electors covering all 38 Districts. The distribution of Braille featured EPICs were completed on 13.04.2024

through the Booth Level Officers. (This department has already distributed 45,137 Braille EPICs to the Visually Impaired Electors covering all the districts upto completion of the General Elections to TNLA, 2021).

i. Distribution of Braille Voter Information Slip

The Election Commission of India has instructed to print and distribute the Braille featured Photo Information Slip to the visually impaired voters in addition to the normal voter slip. The distribution of 66,014 Nos. of Braille featured Voters Information Slips were completed on 13.04.2024.

3. Important Activities schedule for 2024-2025

3.1. Summary Revision as on 01.01.2025 and National Voters' Day, 2025

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 summary revision would be accompanied by an elaborate "Systematic Voters' Education and

Electoral Participation” (SVEEP) campaign and training of concerned personnel in a cascading manner. The master trainers will be trained by India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), set up by the Election Commission of India. This would be followed by celebration of National Voter’s Day on 25.01.2025.

4. Budget Allocation

The expenditure on Elections is booked under the major head “2015.00. Elections” under Demand No.38.02. For the financial year 2024-2025, a sum of Rs.1009,84,46,000/- (Rupees One thousand and nine crore eighty four lakh and forty 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 with reference to 01.01.2024 as the qualifying date, issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPIC), Conduct of General Elections to Lok Sabha and Bye Election from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency, 2024.

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

4.1) 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.35,10,61,000/- (Rupees Thirty five crore ten lakh and sixty one thousand only) has been provided in BE 2024-2025. 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

4.2) 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, 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. Expenditures 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.159,81,84,000/- (Rupees One hundred and fifty nine crores eighty one lakh and eighty four thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-

2025. 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 sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) has been provided under this sub-head.

4.3) 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 and Ramanathapuram Districts, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation Godowns at Villupuram, Thoothukudi, Kallakurichi and Mayiladuthurai Regulated Market Godowns at Tenkasi, Tirupathur Agricultural Producers

Cooperative Marketing Society at Tirupathur and at Maraimalai Nagar, Municipality Office, Chengalpattu district. Expenditure for the payment of rent for these Godowns are met under the above Sub-Head. A sum of Rs.2,66,16,000/- (Rupees Two crore sixty six lakh and sixteen thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-2025. 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred under this sub-head would be reimbursed by the Government of India.

4.4) 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. An amount of Rs.17,000/- (Rupees Seventeen

thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-2025. 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 the 18th Lok Sabha were held on 19.04.2024. No seat is vacant in the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu, at present.

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 Centre, expenditure on other contingencies are the main items of expenditure borne under the above head. A sum of Rs.796,19,94,000/- (Rupees Seven hundred and ninety six crore nineteen lakh and ninety four thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-2025. 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.

4.5) 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.5,28,000/- (Rupees Five lakh and twenty eight thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-2025. 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.

Consequent on the resignation of Tmt. S. Vijayadharani, a Member elected from

233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency, a vacancy had arisen on 24.02.2024 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Subsequently Bye-Election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 233.Vilavancode Assembly Constituency was held on 19.04.2024 along with the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2024. An amount of Rs.93,83,000/- (Rupees Ninety three lakh and eighty three thousand only) was sanctioned 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 of EVMs / VVPPATs, expenditure on other contingencies.

Consequent on the demise of Thiru N. Pugazhenthii, a Member elected from 75.Vikravandi Assembly Constituency on 06.04.2024, a casual vacancy has arisen in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The Election Commission of India on 10.06.2024 has announced the poll schedule for Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 75.Vikravandi Assembly Constituency. The poll will be held on 10.07.2024 and the counting of votes will be held on 13.07.2024.

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 sum of Rs.2,00,16,000/- (Rupees Two crore and sixteen

thousand only) has been provided under this sub-head.

4.6) 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.14,00,17,000/- (Rupees Fourteen crore and seventeen thousand only) has been provided in the BE 2024-2025. 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred 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 and conducting free and fair elections. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also extending full co-operation in this onerous task to the Election Commission of India.

DURAIMURUGAN
Minister for Water Resources