STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA, S.C.O. NO.16-17, SECTOR 20-D, DAKSHIN MARG, CHANDIGARH.

No.SEC/ME/2000/8712

Dated:23.03.2000

ORDER

Whereas, free and fair elections not only require that the electors should be free to exercise their votes in favour of the candidates of their choice according to their own free will, but also make it a pre-condition for a clean election so that the genuine voters exercise their franchise and their right to vote is not defeated by unscrupulous and anti social elements by resorting to impersonation or bogus voting; and

- 2. Whereas, the Parliament has shown its due concern in the matter and made a special provision as far back as 1958 by amending Section 61 of the Representation of the People's Act, 1951 to the effect, inter-alia, that with a view to prevent impersonation of voters, provisions may be made by Rules under that Act for the use of Electoral Identity Cards for electors as the means of establishing their identity at the time of polling; and
- 3. Whereas, Rule 35(3) and Rule 37 (2) (b) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 stipulate that where the electors of a constituency have been supplied with Electoral Identity Cards under the said provisions of Rule 28 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the electors shall produce their Electoral Identity Cards for Assembly Elections at the polling stations and failure or refusal on their part to produce these Electoral Identity Cards may result in the denial of supply of ballot papers to them and permission to vote thereof; and
- 4. Whereas, although, the right to vote arises by the existence of name in the electoral roll, it is the use of Electoral Identity Cards for Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections where provided by the Election Commission; and

- Whereas, in the State of Haryana, more than 88 percent of the electors have been issued Electoral Identity Cards by the Election Commission of India for Assembly and Lok Sabha Elections;
- 6. And that the Election Commission of India issued directions that all electors in the State of Haryana who have been issued with their Electoral Identity Cards, shall have to produce these Cards to exercise their franchise when they come to the polling stations for voting at the General Elections to the Haryana Legislative Assembly, the poll for which was held on the 22nd February, 2000;
- 7. Now, after taking into account all relevant considerations and legal and factual position, the State Election Commission, Haryana hereby directs that all electors of Municipal Corporation, Faridabad, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees in the State of Haryana who have been issued the Electoral Identity Cards for Assembly and Lok Sabha Elections and the Electoral Identity Card numbers have been mentioned in case of the Municipal Electoral Rolls also, shall now have to produce these Cards to exercise their franchise when they come to the polling stations for voting at the current Municipal Elections in Haryana, the polling for which is scheduled to take place on 2nd April, 2000;
- 8. The State Election Commission makes it clear that the electors at the Municipal Elections in Haryana will have to establish their identity at the polling station by means of Electoral Identity Cards issued to them under the authority of the Election Commission of India and by providing other documents mentioned below by those electors of Municipal elections who have not been issued the Electoral Identity Cards by the Election Commission of India. However, as a matter of abundant caution, the State Election Commission also permits the odd electors to vote provided their identity is otherwise established to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer and such other polling officer authorised by the Presiding Officer in this behalf. For this purpose, the electors will have to produce some

documentary evidence which may be helpful in establishing their identity like Ration Cards, Driving Licences, Passports, Identity Cards issued by Central State Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Local Bodies or other private Industrial Houses, Property Tax or other Tax documents, Pass Books issued by Banks/Post office, Kisan Pass Books, Electricity Bills, Chullan Tax Bills/House Tax Bills, Arms Licence, Physical Handicapped Certificate, Student Identity Cards, railway/Bus Passes, Conductor Licence, Freedom Fighter Identity Card issued for Ex-soldiers, School Leaving Certificate/Original Degree/Mark Sheet, Pension Payment Order, Ex-servicemen's Widow/Dependent Certificate, or any other similar documents establishing the identity of the electors to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer. Similar procedure will apply in respect of such of the odd electors who have been supplied with Electoral Identity Cards but are not able to produce them for reasons beyond their control.

Dated: Chandigarh The 23rd March, 2000 T.D.Jogpal State Election Commissioner, Haryana.

Copy to:-

- 1. The Chief Secretary to Government, Haryana.
- 2. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Haryana.
- 3. All the Returning Officers (Municipality) of Municipal Corporation, Faridabad/Municipal Councils/Municipal Committees in the State of Haryana.