

F.No.H-11019(8)/2010-Leg.II
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Legislative Department

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi;
22nd January, 2011

To,

The Secretary,
Election Commission,
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road,
New Delhi.

Subject: Notification declaring 25th January, every year, as the National Voters' Day—
regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the following relating to the observance of the National Voters' Day on the 25th January, every year, namely:—

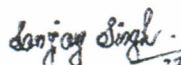
(i) copy of the notification issued by the Government of India in the Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department *vide* No.H-11019/12/2010-Leg.II, dated the 21st January, 2011;

(ii) copy of the letter of the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, dated the 10th September, 2010;

(iii) copy of the letter of the Election Commission No.491/IEC/2010(NRV)/113, dated the 11th January, 2011;

Yours sincerely,

Encl. As above.


(Dr. Sanjay Singh) 22/1/11

Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel
Tel.No.23384405

Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. President Secretariat.
2. Prime Minister's Office.
3. Cabinet Secretariat.
4. Secretaries of all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
5. The Chief Ministers/Administrators of all States/Union territories/Chief Secretaries.
6. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice.
7. Election Commission of India.
8. State Chief Electoral Officers.
9. National Informatics Centre (NIC) with a request for putting the same on website of the Ministry of Law and Justice.
10. P.S. to Secretary (Department of Legal Affairs).
11. P.S. to Secretary (Legislative Department).
12. P.S. to Additional Secretary.
13. P.S. to all Joint Secretaries in Department of Legal Affairs/Legislative Department.
14. Guard file/spare copies.


(Dr. Sanjay Singh) 22/1/11

Joint Secretary and Legislative Counsel



भारत का राजपत्र

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EXTRAORDINARY

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(विधायी विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 21 जनवरी, 2011

सं. एच-11019/12/2010-वि. 2.—संविधान (इकसठवां संशोधन) अधिनियम, 1988 का अधिनियमन, मतदान की आयु को इक्कीस वर्ष से घटाकर अठारह वर्ष करने के लिए संविधान के अनुच्छेद 326 का संशोधन करने के लिए किया गया था जिससे कि देश के ऐसे युवाओं को, जिन्हें प्रतिनिधित्व प्राप्त नहीं है, उनकी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करने का अवसर प्रदान किया जा सके और राजनैतिक प्रक्रिया का भाग बनने में उनकी सहायता की जा सके ;

और केन्द्रीय सरकार, देश की निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया में कतिपय वर्गों के बीच, विशेषकर नए मतदाताओं सहित युवाओं में, उदासीनता और सम्मिलित न होने के वर्तमान स्तर के संबंध में निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया में नागरिकों की बृहत्तर भागीदारी के बारे में चिंतित है ;

और यह संकल्प किया गया है कि हमारे लोकतंत्र को क्रियाशील लोकतंत्र बनाने के लिए निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया में प्रभावी भागीदारी के संबंध में मतदाताओं में जागरूकता फैलाई जाए और निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा देश के सभी मतदान केन्द्र क्षेत्रों में प्रत्येक वर्ष 1 जनवरी को अठारह वर्ष की आयु प्राप्त करने वाले सभी पात्र मतदाताओं की पहचान करने और समय पर उन्हें नामांकित करने का गंभीर प्रयास किया जाए ;

और यह विनिश्चय किया गया है कि सभी नए मतदाताओं को 25 जनवरी को संपूर्ण देश में प्रत्येक मतदान केन्द्र क्षेत्र में आयोजित किए जाने वाले अभिनंदन समारोह में उनके मतदाता फोटो पहचान-पत्र प्रदान किए जाएं, जिससे युवाओं में नागरिकता की जिम्मेदारी, सशक्तिकरण, स्वाभिमान और भागीदारी की भावना पैदा की जा सके और जब भी अवसर पड़े, उन्हें नए अर्जित मताधिकार का प्रयोग करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा सके ;

और निर्वाचक भागीदारी को लोकप्रिय बनाने और मतदाता शिक्षा के संवर्धन के लिए नए रजिस्ट्रीकृत मतदाताओं का प्रत्येक वर्ष 25 जनवरी को निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा मान्यताप्राप्त राष्ट्रीय और राज्य स्तरीय राजनैतिक

दलों, पंचायत संगठनों, शैक्षिक संस्थाओं, सिविल सोसाइटी समूहों, मीडिया आदि के सहयोग से आयोजित किए जाने वाले समारोह में अभिनंदन किया जाएगा, जिसमें उन्हें मतदाता फोटो पहचान-पत्र वितरित किए जाएंगे ;

और यह पहल देश के सभी पात्र मतदाताओं को, निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने के उनके उत्तरदायित्व के बारे में स्मरण कराएगी और उनके मन में लोकतांत्रिक निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया के लिए ऐसी प्रतिबद्धता उत्पन्न करेगी जो उनकी बृहत्तर भागीदारी को बढ़ाएगी ;

अतः, अब, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने यह विनिश्चय किया है कि इस वर्ष से आरंभ करते हुए, प्रत्येक वर्ष 25 जनवरी को, जो निर्वाचन आयोग का स्थापना दिवस है, उसे अवकाश दिवस घोषित किए बिना, संपूर्ण देश में "राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस" के रूप में मनाया जाए और इस प्रयोजन के लिए निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा उपयुक्त रीति में आयोजित किए जाने वाले एक संक्षिप्त समारोह में नए मतदाताओं को उनके मतदाता फोटो पहचान-पत्र और "मतदाता होने का गर्व है-मतदान करने के लिए तैयार हैं" नारे वाले लोगो सहित बैज प्रदान किए जाएं ।

डॉ. संजय सिंह, संयुक्त सचिव और विधायी परामर्शी

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 21st January, 2011

No. H-11019/12/2010-Leg. II.— WHEREAS the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988 was enacted to amend article 326 of the Constitution lowering the voting age from twenty-one years to eighteen years so as to provide the unrepresented youth of the country an opportunity to give vent to their feelings and help them to become a part of the political process;

AND, WHEREAS, the Central Government is concerned about greater participation of citizens in the country's electoral process as against the present level of apathy and non-involvement among certain sections, especially the youth including the new voters in the electoral process;

AND, WHEREAS, it has been resolved to spread awareness among all sections of voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process to make our democracy a vibrant democracy; and to take up a vigorous exercise to identify all eligible voters attaining the age of eighteen years as on the 1st day of January every year, in all the polling station areas of the country and to enroll them on time by the Election Commission;

AND, WHEREAS, it has been decided to hand over to all new voters, Elector Photo Identity Cards on the 25th day of January every year at a felicitation to be organised in each polling station area all over the country so as to give the youth a sense of responsible citizenship, empowerment, pride and participation and to inspire them to exercise their newly acquired franchise, when occasion arises;

AND, WHEREAS, the newly registered voters shall be felicitated on the 25th January every year in a ceremony arranged by the Election Commission in association with recognised National and State level political parties, Panchayat organisations, academic institutions, civil society groups, media, etc., to popularise electoral participation and advance voters' education, wherein Elector Photo Identity Cards shall be distributed to them;

AND, WHEREAS, this initiative will serve as a reminder to all eligible voters in the country towards their responsibility to participate in the electoral process and to inculcate in them a commitment to democratic electoral process that leads to greater participation;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Central Government has decided to observe the 25th day of January, every year, being the Election Commission's foundation day, as the 'National Voters' Day' beginning from this year, throughout the country without declaring it as a holiday; and to provide to the new voters with Elector Photo Identity Cards and badges with a logo depicting the slogan 'Proud to be a voter—Ready to vote' in a brief ceremony in a befitting manner to be organised by the Election Commission for the purpose.

Dr. SANJAY SINGH, Jt. Secy. and Legislative Counsel

Mr. S. Y. Quraishi
Chief Election Commissioner of India



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

10.9.2010

Dear Shri Chandrasekh

As you are aware, the Election Commission of India is concerned about greater participation of citizens in the country's electoral process as against the present level of apathy and non-involvement among certain sections, especially the youth. Concern about this has also been voiced by the hon'ble President and Prime Minister of India on various occasions. The Commission is making serious efforts to enroll all eligible electors of the country at the earliest.

2. In particular, the Commission has found that the new voters (18+) are missing from the electoral roll in a big way year after year. In certain cases, the level of their enrolment is as low as 20 to 25%. In order to effectively deal with this problem, the Commission has decided to take up a vigorous exercise to identify all the eligible voters attaining the age of 18 years as on 1st of January every year, in each of the 8.5 lakh polling station areas of the country. These youth shall be enrolled on time and handed over their Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) on the 25th January at a brief felicitation to be organized in each polling station area. This is expected to give the youth a sense of citizenship, empowerment, pride and participation and inspire them to exercise their newly acquired franchise, when the occasion comes.

3. In the light of the above, Commission has decided to celebrate 25th January, which is its Foundation Day, as the "National Voters' Day". The purpose of such commemoration is to mobilize all stakeholders to complete the enrolment task by a clear deadline. Through this exercise, the Commission seeks to make universal adult franchise a complete reality and thereby enhance the quality of Indian democracy. Commission will organize programmes on this day to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process. As such, 25th January, 2011 shall be celebrated as the first "National Voters' Day". We have already instructed Chief



Electoral Officers and District Election Officers of all States / UTs about the scheme of the "National Voters' Day", a copy of which ^{has been} is enclosed.

4. Considering the significance of this initiative, I would request you to suitably intimate the Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the Government of India as well as the State Governments about the Commission's aforesaid decision so that they take necessary action to fully meet the objectives behind the "National Voters' Day".

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(S.Y. Quraishi)

Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar,
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110004

20
6/8/10

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001

491/IEC/2010(NRV)

31-665

Dated: 26th August, 2010

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of all States & UTs

Sub:- Declaration of 25th January as the National Voters' Day - regarding.

Sir/ Madam,

As a measure to enhance participation of citizens in the democratic electoral process, the Commission has decided to celebrate 25th January, its Foundation Day, as the National Voters Day every year, starting from 25th January 2011, the concluding day of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of ECI. The Commission's objective is to increase enrolment of voters, by using this occasion so as to make universal adult franchise a complete reality and thereby enhance the quality of Indian democracy. The day will also be utilized to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.

In this regard, the Commission has directed that newly registered voters in each polling booth in the latest revision should be felicitated on 25th January every year in a brief ceremony. This is expected to inculcate in the new voters a commitment to democratic electoral process and should lead to greater participation. This will also serve as a reminder to all other eligible electors in the polling booth area towards their responsibility to participate in the electoral process.

The following will be the scheme of activities on the National Voters Day which shall be ensured by the DEOs, under the overall supervision of the CEO:

1. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in each polling station area shall felicitate the newly registered voters on 25th January every year in a brief ceremony/ public function to be arranged by DEO/ ERO. The ECI will prescribe the design and colour scheme of a badge with its logo with the slogan "Proud to be a voter - Ready to vote" which shall also be provided by the BLOs to the new electors during the felicitation ceremony

along with their EPIC. The DEOs would arrange for the venue and logistics required for the brief ceremony/ public function, in each polling station area.

2. The AEROs and EROs of the constituency shall participate in the ceremony/ public function of those Part(s) under their jurisdiction where largest number of newly registered electors would be felicitated.

3. The DEO shall organize appropriate events at the District headquarters, in association with Panchayat organisations, academic institutions, civil society groups, media etc. to popularise electoral participation and advance voters' education. In this event, EPIC shall be distributed among new voters of the local polling station areas.

4. The CEO of the State/UT concerned would organize events in the State capital in association with Media, Civil Society, Opinion Groups, State Administration, State Election Commission etc. in order to popularise electoral participation and disseminate information about electoral processes. In this event also, EPIC shall be distributed among new voters of the local polling station area.

5. ECI will organise a suitable event in the country's capital to highlight the values of electoral democracy and the issues relating to popular participation in elections.

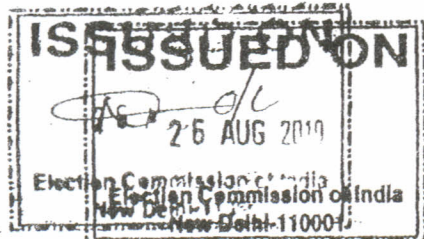
Expenditure relating to the distribution of badges and holding of function at various levels will be borne by the respective State/UT Governments/ Administration.

Report of compliance along with details of events held and photographs/ videos may be sent to the Commission by the 15th of February every year.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Tapas Kumar)
Principal Secretary



Most Immediate
By Special Messenger/ Fax

Election Commission of India

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 491/IEC/2010(NRV) /113

Dated: 11th January, 2011

To,

The Secretary to Govt. of India,
Ministry of Law and Justice,
(Legislative Department),
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi, 110115.

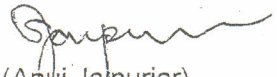
(Kind attention Shri Sanjay Singh, Joint Secretary)

Subject: Declaration of 25th January every year as National Voters' Day- reg

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter no. H-11019/8/2010- Leg II, dated 7th January, 2011 and 11th January, 2011 respectively on the subject cited and to furnish the information sought as under:

National Voters' Day has been declared by the Commission as part of its Constitutional duty of preparation and maintenance of Electoral Rolls. This work includes annual revision of Electoral Rolls and preparation and distribution of Elector Photo Identity Cards. The Commission has decided to observe National Voters' Day to focus on accurate preparation and maintenance of Electoral Rolls and ensure participation of voters, particularly young voters, in this exercise. Since National Voters' Day is part of the regular Electoral Roll management exercise, any expenditure on it should be met with from the budget provision for maintenance and management of Electoral Rolls, which is a normal process. No separate head of expenditure is either envisaged or necessary for meeting the nominal expenditure on celebration of National Voters' Day.


(Anuj Jalpuria)
Secretary