

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/59/2016

Dated: 17th October, 2016

PRESS NOTE

Subject : Schedule for holding General Election from 134-Aravakurichi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituencies in the State of Tamil Nadu – Regarding .

The Governor of Tamil Nadu vide his notification dated 22nd April, 2016 under section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 called upon all the assembly constituencies of the State to elect members. The Election Commission vide its notification dated 22nd April, 2016 under sections 30 and 56 of the said Act appointed the dates for various stages of elections and fixed hours of poll for all the assembly constituencies of Tamil Nadu including 134-Aravakurichi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituencies, as under:-

- a) The 29th April, 2016 (Friday), as the last date for making nominations;
- b) The 30th April, 2016 (Saturday), as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;
- c) The 2nd May, 2016 (Monday), as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures;
- d) The 16th May, 2016 (Monday) as the date on which a poll shall, if necessary taken; and
- e) The 21st May, 2016 (Saturday), as the date before which the election shall be completed.

2. Subsequently, the Commission, for reasons stated in its two orders No. 464/TN-LA/2016, dated 14th May, 2016 and 15th May 2016, deferred the dates of poll in the said 134-Aravakurichi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituencies that were scheduled to be taken on the 16th may, 2016 (Monday), to 23rd May, 2016 (Monday), initially. The Commission vide its subsequent order No. 464/TN-LA/2016, dated 20th May, 2016 further deferred the date of poll to 13th June, 2016 (Monday) for the reasons stated therein.

3. Later, the Commission issued proceeding No. 464/TN-LA/2016 dated 27th May, 2016 holding that the election process in 134-Aravakuruchi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituencies could not be allowed to proceed and ought to be rescinded so that fresh

elections could be conducted de-novo when the atmosphere would become conducive for holding of free and fair elections after a reasonable lapse of time. On the basis of recommendation by the Election Commission of India vide its Proceeding dated 27th May, 2016, the Notification dated 22nd April 2016 was partially rescinded in respect of 134-Aravakurichi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituency by the Notification dated 28th May, 2016 by the Governor, Tamil Nadu.

4. Now the Commission has considered the matter and has decided to hold the General Election from 134-Aravakurichi and 174-Thanjavur Assembly Constituencies in the State of Tamil Nadu as per the programme mentioned as under: -

| Poll Events | Schedule |
|---|-------------------------|
| Date of Issue of Gazette Notification | 26.10.2016 (WED) |
| Last Date of Nomination | 02.11.2016 (WED) |
| Date for Scrutiny of Nomination | 03.11.2016 (THU) |
| Last Date of Withdrawal of candidatures | 05.11.2016 (SAT) |
| Date of Poll | 19.11.2016 (SAT) |
| Date of Counting | 22.11.2016 (TUE) |
| Date before which election shall be completed | 24.11.2016 (THU) |

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll for the State with reference to 01.01.2016 has been finally published. The Election in the State will be held with the existing rolls.

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

The Commission has decided to use EVMs in the Election in all the polling stations. Adequate numbers of EVMs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.


IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS

In consonance with the past practice, the Commission has decided that the voter's identification shall be mandatory in the aforementioned bye- elections at the time of poll. Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, in order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the Electoral Rolls, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents

for identification of voters at the time of poll in the said bye-elections.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) in which the whole or any part of the Assembly Constituencies going for bye-elections is included, subject to partial modification as issued vide Commission's instruction No. 437/INST/2012/CC&BE, dated 26th April, 2012 (available on the Commission's website). The Model Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties and the State Government concerned. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government for the State.


(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY