

# **MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS**

## **PRESS NOTE**

**Panchkula:- 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2013:** Shri Dharam Vir, State Election Commissioner, Haryana held a meeting with the representatives of the National and State political parties to discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming elections of seven newly constituted Corporations, namely Ambala, Hisar, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Panchkula and Yamuna Naga. Shri Suresh Harouli, District President, Panchkula of Bahujan Samaj Party; Shri Gian Chand Gupta, and Kanwar Pal of Bhartiya Janta Party; Shri Daryao Singh Kashyap, State Secretary, Communist Party of India; Shri R.S. Sathi, Communist Party of India (Marxist); Shri Mukesh Malhotra, and Shri Ravinder Rawal of Indian National Congress; Shri Manoj Aggarwal and Kapil of Indian National Lokdal; and Shri Shashi Sharma of Haryana Janhit Congress (BL) attended the meeting.

The State Election Commissioner explained the arrangements for free and fair polls. In particular, the following points came up for discussion:-

- i. Publication of voter list and polling station.
- ii. Application of model code of conduct
- iii. Setting up of candidates by political parties and allotment of symbol
- iv. Election expenditure limit and appointment of Expenditure Observer
- v. Appointment of Election Observer
- vi. Maintenance of law and order
- vii. Defacement of Property Act
- viii. Time of poll
- ix. Counting of votes and declaration of result.

The State Election Commissioner said that voters lists have been prepared with photos. The Deputy Commissioner were asked to identify duplicate, fake and bogus voters and remove them after verification. The voter lists have been prepared and final publication has been made. The Deputy Commissioners have been asked to give one copy of the rolls along with compact disc to all the parties. For the benefit of the public, the

rolls with convenient search facility have been hosted on the websites of the Commission and district administration concerned. The Commissioner also told them that a slip giving details of voter no and polling station shall be given to every voter a few days before the day of polling.

He further informed the website would also give details of polling stations with their pictures and locations. A demonstration of the website facility was made during the meeting.

A few political parties informed the Commissioner that they had received the lists late and need more time to study them. The Commissioner assured them that the DCs would be asked to give copies wherever there has been delay. However, they can download all the information from the websites.

The model code of conduct shall come into force as and when the election programme is announced by the Commission. An order containing the detail instructions for setting up of a candidate by political party and a notification notifying symbols for a contesting candidate has also been issued, Shri Dharam Vir added.

He further told that at present, the expenditure limit for a candidate for election of Municipal Corporation is Rs.1,25,000/- and Expenditure Observer would be appointed for every Corporation to watch the expenditure incurred by candidates. Most of the representatives of political parties suggested that the expenditure limit should be increased about Rs.5,00,000/-. The State Election Commissioner assured them to look in to the matter.

To ensure free and fair polls and redressal of grievances of the candidates and the public, an IAS officer would be appointed as Election Observer for every Corporation. Some of the representatives were of the view, junior officers should also be appointed as election observers for every ward. The Commissioner informed them that the supervisory officer would be appointed for every ward.

To maintain the law and order during the elections, sufficient police force shall be deployed. In the sensitive areas, extra forces shall be deployed on the polling stations. Some of the representatives were of the view that police from the outside the District concern shall be deployed.

The Commissioner further added that to enforce the Haryana Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1989, the detail instructions have been prescribed. The representatives suggested that the poll time should be 8.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. and the counting of votes should take place a day after the polling. The Commissioner assured the political parties that their suggestions would be considered and appropriate action taken soon.