

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

निर्वाचन सदन
NIRVACHAN SADAN
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110 001
ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 001

No.318/CS-MULTI/2020-BIEN

Dated : 24.03.2020

ORDER

Wherein, Election Commission of India announced on 25.02.2020 biennial elections to the Council of States to fill the seats of Members retiring in the month of April,2020, which were notified vide Notification No. 318/CS-Multi/2020(1) dated 06.03.2020;

Whereas, vide said notification, the date of poll is fixed as 26.03.2020 (Thursday) and the date before which election shall be completed is kept as 30.03.2020 (Monday);

Whereas, as per the reports received from the concerned Returning Officers, the biennial elections in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Rajasthan are now to be conducted;

Whereas, on 11.03.2020 World Health Organization has declared Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic. Ministry of Health & Family Affairs and Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India have issued various guidelines and instructions to monitor and contain the transmission of COVID-19;

Whereas, Government of India, vide its press note dated 22.03.2020, has asked all the State Governments to take all measures to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. This includes suspension of all train services till 31.03.2020 including sub urban rail services; closure of all activities except essential services such as hospitals, telecom, medicine shops, provision stores etc. Subsequently, on 23.03.2020 it has also been informed that the operations of domestic schedule commercial airlines shall cease operations with effective from the mid night 23.59 IST hours on 24.03.2020. State Governments have issued

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various orders including curb on local transportation accordingly for management and containment of COVID-19;

Whereas, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Rajasthan have issued orders of lock down to contain the transmission of COVID-19;

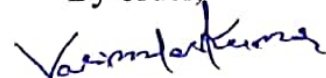
Whereas, the prevailing unforeseen situation of public health emergency indicates the need for avoidance of possibilities of gatherings of any nature, which expose all concerned to possible health hazard;

Whereas, the poll process in the above said elections would necessarily include the gathering of polling officials, agents of political parties, support officials and members of respective Legislative Assemblies on the poll day, which may not be suitable in view of the prevailing unforeseen situation and related advisories in the country;

Whereas, section 153 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 specifies that the Election Commission for reasons which it considers sufficient, may extend the time for the completion of any election by making necessary amendments in the notification issued by it under section 30 or sub-section (1) of section 39; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above and in exercise of the powers vested under section 153 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission hereby extends the period of said election under the provisions of section 153 of the said Act. The list of contesting candidates, already published for the said elections by the respective Returning Officers shall remain valid for the purposes of remaining activities, as prescribed under the said notifications. Fresh date of poll and counting for the said biennial elections shall be announced in due course after reviewing the prevailing situation.

By order,



(VARINDER KUMAR)
SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY