

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
**NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001**

No. 54/2/2020-EMS

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

To

The Secretary to  
The Government of India,  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,  
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

**Subject: Use of Indelible Ink for affixing stamp indicating home quarantine of people due to COVID-19.**

Sir,

I am directed to state that due to extraordinary circumstances because of COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has reviewed its decision *suo-moto* and it is decided to allow usage of Indelible Ink on persons for stamping for home quarantine by health authorities with the following conditions:

1. As per the provisions of Rule 49K of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the left forefinger of electors is required to be marked with indelible ink at the polling stations before the elector is allowed to vote. Sub rule (4) of the said Rule 49K provides that in cases where the elector does not have fore finger on the left hand, the ink is to be marked on any finger on his left hand, and if he does not have any finger on his left hand, the ink is to be marked on his right forefinger. Hence, concerned authorities shall be instructed **not to use the Indelible Ink on any finger on left hand of any persons.**
2. Ministry may standardise the mark and the location on the body where the mark has to be applied so that it does not come in the way of conduct of elections anywhere in the country.
3. The authorities concerned shall be instructed to maintain the record of the persons to whom Indelible Ink is applied.

4. The authorities shall also be instructed to ensure that the Indelible Ink shall not be used for any other purpose.

**Commission would like bring to the notice of entities be they be Ministries/ Departments in GOI / any PSUs in the Central / State sector / Govts of user States / Govts of UTs that indelible ink mark is normally expected to last for 3 days when applied on the skin but lasts for a few weeks on the fingernail till the nail grows out.**

Yours faithfully,



**(Madhusudan Gupta)**  
Secretary

Copy to

1. The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.
2. The Managing Director, Mysore Paints & Varnish Limited (Government of Karnataka undertaking), New Bannimantap Ext. PO- Mysore-570015, Karnataka.

.....for information and necessary action.



**(Madhusudan Gupta)**  
Secretary