

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110 001

No.ECI/PN/12 /2007

Dated: 26th February, 2007

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Schedule for bye-elections to fill casual vacancies in the Lok Sabha from Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand

1. Ten Lok Sabha seats became vacant due to cessation of the membership of the persons representing the Parliamentary Constituencies on the order of the Hon'ble Speaker on 23.12.2005. Writ Petition No 1 of 2006 and certain transfer cases were filed before the Supreme court of India challenging the aforesaid order of the Hon'ble Speaker. The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed on 3rd April,2006 that the bye elections to fill these vacancies may not be held pending the above cases.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had pronounced its judgment dismissing all these cases on 10.01.2007 making it possible for the Commission to hold these bye-elections.

3. Bye-elections for all these seats except for those in Madhya Pradesh, however, could not be held for various reasons like impending general elections to the State Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh, ongoing revision of electoral rolls in progress in Himachal Pradesh and scheduling of the State Secondary/Higher Secondary Examinations in Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra till third week of March,2007, as pointed out in the Commission's earlier Press Note No. ECI/PN/6/2007, dated 6th February,2007.

4. Schedule for General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh has, in the meantime, been declared vide Commission's Press Note dated 21st February,2007. Bye-elections for the three vacant Lok Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh are being held simultaneously with the Assembly elections in that State

5. The Commission has now decided to hold bye-elections for filling up 11- Rajnandgaon Parliamentary Constituency in **Chhatisgarh** and 13- **Plamu** Parliamentary Constituency **in Jharkhand** as per programme indicated below:-

Schedule

| PROGRAMME | SCHEDULE |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Issue of Notification | 03-03-07 (Saturday) |
| 2. Last date of making Nominations | 10-03-07 (Saturday) |
| 3. Scrutiny of Nominations | 12-03-07(Monday) |
| 4. Last date for withdrawal of candidatures | 14-03-07(Wednesday) |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 5. Date of Poll | 29-03-07(Thurs) |
| 6. Counting of votes | 01-04-07 (Sun) |
| 7. Date before which election shall be completed | 03-04-07(Tuesday) |

6. Programme for holding bye-elections for the two seats from Maharashtra will be taken up separately as there are local bodies elections in the State due on 11-03-2007.

ELELCTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

7. The Commission has decided to use EVMs in all these bye-elections in all the polling stations. Adequate numbers of EVMs have been made available to these states and all steps have been taken to ensure that the poll is conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS

8. 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. In order to ensure that no voter is deprived of his/her franchise, if his/her name figures in the Electoral Roll, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents, apart from the Electors' Photo Identity Cards, for identification of voters at the time of poll in these bye-elections.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

9. The Model Code of conduct shall come into force with immediate effect i.e. 26th February, 2007, in the districts in which the whole or any part of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituency going for bye-election is included. The Model Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties and the State Governments. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government as far as these States are concerned.

**(LALIT MOHAN)
SECRETARY**