

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-11001

No. ECI/PN/25/2004

Dated: 13th September, 2006

PRESS NOTE

Subject: Schedule for bye-election to fill the casual vacancy in the State Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu from 143- Madurai Central Assembly Constituency.

A vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu w.e.f 20.05.06 due to death of Shri T.Palanivelrajan who was elected from 143-Madurai Central Assembly Constituency of the State. This vacancy could not be filled up earlier as the election machinery in the district took up the work of preparation of photo electoral rolls which is now been completed.

2. It has been consistent policy of the Commission that the bye-election shall be held at earliest possible opportunity in order to ensure that no segment of the Indian people are left unrepresented for unnecessary length of time.

3. The Commission, however, takes into account various factors such as weather conditions, festivals and other important events before preparation of schedule for any election. Taking into account that Tamil Nadu which is likely to be hit by North East Monsoon by the end of October and that the local body election are likely to be held in the State in the middle of the same month, the Commission has decided to filled up the above mentioned vacancy in accordance with the following programme:-

1. Issue of Notifications	16-09-06 (Saturday)
2. Last date of making nominations:	23-09-06 (Saturday)
3. Scrutiny of nominations:	25-09-06 (Monday)
4. Last date for withdrawal of candidatures:	27-09-06 (Wednesday)
5. Date of poll:	11-10-06 (Wednesday)
6. Counting of Votes:	14-10-06 (Saturday)
7. Date before which the election shall be completed	16-10-06 (Monday)

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

4. The Commission has decided to use EVMs in this bye-election in all the polling stations.

IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS

5. In consonance with the past practice, the Commission has decided that the voter's identification shall be mandatory in the aforementioned bye-election 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 this bye-election.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

6. The Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect, i.e.13th September, 2006 in the districts in which the whole or any part of Assembly Constituency going for bye-election is included. The Model Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all candidates, political parties and the State Government. The Model Code of Conduct shall also be applicable to the Union Government as far as these districts are concerned.

**(LALIT MOHAN)
SECRETARY**