

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
PUDUCHERRY**

No.1-30(23-1)/SEC/CE/Dir./2021 /852

Dated 28.09.2021

DIRECTION

Sub: SEC - Panchayat Elections - Allotment of symbols to the candidate set up registered but unrecognized political parties and for independent candidates - Procedure to be adopted – Reg.

In respect of Panchayat elections there are three types of elections namely,

- (i) Member of Village Panchayat
- (ii) President of Village Panchayat
- (iii) Member of Commune Panchayat Council

Out of the above elections, the first two namely Member of Village Panchayat and President of Village Panchayats are to be held on non-party basis and the third one namely Member of Commune Panchayat Councils is to be held on Party basis.

Procedure for allotment of symbols for National and State Party:

Since the election to Member of Commune Panchayat Councils is held on party basis, a candidate sponsored by a National or State Party shall choose and shall be allotted only the symbol exclusively reserved for that party and no other symbols. In view of this, such candidate need not indicate three symbols in order of preference in his nomination paper but must indicate the symbol reserved for the party which has set him up as a candidate for which the requisite Form 'A' 'B' & 'C' should be submitted to the respective Returning Officers.

The candidate other than these shall choose three symbols in order of preference from out of the list of free symbols specified by State Election Commission and indicate such preference in the nomination paper. The procedure to be adopted for allotting the symbols for the registered but unrecognized political parties and for Independent Candidates are specified as follows;

The procedure for allotment of symbols for candidate set up registered but unrecognized political parties and for independent candidate:

Every candidate who is set up by a registered but unrecognized political party or who is an independent candidate shall declare in the nomination paper first filed by him or on his behalf, his choice of three symbols from the list of free symbols for that election indicating the order of preference. The symbols shall be allotted in accordance with the procedure laid down below.

(i) The allotment of symbols shall be considered in the order of preference of the candidates that is to say, the first preference of the candidate will be considered first, the second preference next and the third reference last.

Provided that the allotment of symbols to candidates set up by registered but unrecognized political parties shall be completed first and only thereafter the allotment of symbols to the independent candidates shall be taken up and allotted from among the remaining free symbols.

(ii) Where a free symbol has been sought for only one candidate set up by a registered but unrecognized political party, as his first choice it shall be allotted to that candidate and no one else. If any free symbol has been sought for more than one candidate set up by the registered but unrecognized political parties, the allotment of that symbol shall be decided by drawing a lot between those candidates whose name is drawn first shall be allotted that symbol.

(iii) If any candidate setup by the registered but unrecognized political party could not be allotted the symbol sought for as his first preference in the lot, he shall be considered for allotment of free symbol for sought as his second preference and even if the candidate set up by the registered but unrecognized political party could not be allotted the symbol sought to as his second preference in the lot, he shall considered for allotment of free symbols sought for his third preference. Should the second and third choice of symbol could not also be allotted, due to conflicting claims for that symbol and failure to get the particular symbol in the lot, he shall be allotted any one of the free symbols left out according to his choice after allotting to other candidates set up registered but unrecognized political parties.

(iv) After completing the allotment of free symbols to all the candidates set up by registered but unrecognized political parties, the remaining free symbols shall be allotted to the independent candidates in accordance with their choice and preference by adopting the procedures for allotment of symbols to candidates set up by registered by unrecognized political parties.

Assignment of symbols to the candidate for Election of Member of Village Panchayat and President of Village Panchayat:

Since these two elections are to beheld on non-party basis, immediately after 3.00 P.M on the last day for withdrawal of candidature, the Returning Officer should arrange the names of contesting candidates in alphabetical order according to Tamil script in Form 6 List of contesting candidates.

After the arrangement of the names of contesting candidates, comes the assignment of distinctive symbols to each candidate. The first free symbol listed in the Notification No.SEC/1-6(P)/Civic Elec/2021 dt 25.08.2021 as amended time to time may be assigned to the first candidate for any one election. Thus, if there are five contesting candidates as member of Village Panchayat, the first five symbols viz Almirah, Auto Rickshaw, Balloon, Bangles and Battery torch will be assigned to them respectively. The candidate whose names figures at sl no. 3 in the list of contesting candidates in Form 6 shall be assigned the free symbol of Balloon in respect of Election of Member of Village Panchayat. Thus, it will be seen that one gets a symbol depending upon his numerical position in the list of contesting candidates in Form 6.

After assignment of the symbols, the Returning Officer should issue a specimen copy of the symbol allotted to the candidate after getting proper acknowledgment.

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(ROY P THOMAS)
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

To

1. The District Election Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal
2. The Secretaries to State Election Commission
3. All Returning Officers/Assistant Returning Officers of Commune Panchayats.