

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
18, Sarojini Naidu Sarani
(Rawdon Street)
Kolkata – 700 017

PANCHAYAT
ELECTION URGENT

No. 2975-SEC/1E-83/2013

Date: 12.09.2015

ORDER

WHEREAS, Section 70 of the West Bengal Panchayat Elections Act, 2003 (West Bengal Act XXI of 2003) provides that, with a view to preventing impersonation of electors, so as to make the right of genuine electors to vote under section 72 of that Act more effective propositions may be made by rules under that Act for use of electors photo identity card for electors as the means of establishing their identity at the time of polling;

AND

2. WHEREAS, rule 54(1) of the West Bengal Panchayat Elections Rules, 2006 stipulates that the Presiding Officer or the Polling Officer, as the case may be, shall require every voter to produce EPIC or in absence of EPIC, such other documents as may be specified, by order, by the Commission;

AND

3. WHEREAS, a combined and harmonious reading of the aforesaid provisions of the said act and the rules, makes it clear that although to right to vote arises by the existence of the name in the electoral role, it is also depended upon the use of the electors photo identity card, where provided by the Election Commission of India, as the means of establishing their identity at the time of polling and that both are to be used together;

AND

4. WHEREAS, electors photo identity card (EPIC) has been issued to more than 97% registered electors in the country;

AND

5. Now, therefore, in supersession of all previous orders in this regard by the State Election Commissioner, West Bengal State Election Commission, and after taking into account all relevant factors and the legal and factual position, the State Election Commission in exercise of the power conferred by Article 243K of the Constitution of India read with section 4 of the West Bengal State Election Commissions Act, 1994 hereby directs that all the electors who have been issued electors photo identity card (EPIC) in respect of the constituencies going into the Panchayat General Election, 2015 for Siliguri Sub Division and different constituencies spread over 18 Districts of the State going into Panchayat Bye Election, 2015, where Elections are scheduled to be held on 3rd October, 2015, shall produce their EPIC for their identity at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors, who

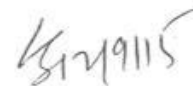
are not able to produce EPIC shall produce any one of the following alternative photo identity documents for establishing their identity:

- (i) Passport.
- (ii) Driving Licence.
- (iii) Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to its employees by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Public Limited Companies.
- (iv) Passbooks with photograph issued by the Public Sector Banks / Post Office.
- (v) PAN Card
- (vi) Aadhar Card with photograph.
- (vii) Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
- (viii) MNREGA Job Cards.
- (ix) Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
- (x) Pension Documents with photograph.
- (xi) Non EPIC Certificate issued by the Municipal Returning Officer

6. In the case of EPIC clerical errors, spelling mistakes etc. should be ignored provided that the identity of the elector can be established by the EPIC. If an elector produces an EPIC, which has been issued by the ERO of another Assembly Constituency, such EPICs shall also be accepted for identification provided the name of the elector finds place in the electoral role pertaining to the polling station where the elector has turned up for voting. If it is not possible to establish the identity of the elector on account of mismatch of photograph etc. the elector shall have to produce one of the alternative photo documents mentioned in para 5 above.

All the Panchayat Returning Officers shall be instructed to note the implications of the order and explain the contents thereof to all Presiding Officers through special briefings. They should also ensure that a copy of this letter is available with the Presiding Officer with all polling stations / booths.

By order of the
State Election Commissioner,
West Bengal State Election Commission



Secretary
West Bengal State Election Commission

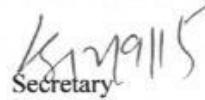
No. 2975/1(41)-SEC/1E-83/2013

Date: 12.09.2015

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the:-

- 1) District Magistrate
& District Panchayat Election Officer.....All (19)
- 2) Panchayat Returning Officer & Sub-Divisional Officer, Siliguri/ Uluberia /Paschim Medinipore
- 3) District Panchayat & Rural Development Officer..... All (19)

Panchayat Returning Officers for Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samity may be informed accordingly with the direction to bring the order to the notice of the Presiding Officers and Observers.


Secretary

West Bengal State Election Commission

No. 2975/1(41)/2(9)-SEC/1E-83/2013

Date: 12.09.2015

Copy forwarded for kind information to

The President / Chairman / General Secretary / Secretary, (Pol. Party)


Secretary

West Bengal State Election Commission