

To,
Hon'ble Shri Sunil Aroraji
The Chief Election Commissioner of India
Nirwachan Sadan, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi - 110001

Sub.: In the light of COVID-19 situation, extend the Election Programme to Elect the Member for Maharashtra Legislative Council from Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency, whose term shall expire on 19.07.2020.

Dear Sir,

The tenure of One of the Member of Maharashtra Legislative Council, *representing Graduate Constituency of Nagpur Division*, shall expire on 19.07.2020 and therefore in natural course the Election Programme for filling the said vacancy is likely to be announced at time before the expiry of the said term, like the same is being done for other elections which are either due or likely to due.

However, having regard to the tremendous disturbances and unexpected situations created due to **COVID-19** the following unwarranted difficulties/situations have been aroused, as far as this said election is concerned, which are needed to be taken into account before declaration of programme for the said Election by your good self.

1. The Nagpur Division Graduate Consistency consists of Six Districts Viz. Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, Gondia, Bhandara and Gadchiroli out of which **Nagpur District is declared as Red Zone** and though the other Districts are in Non-Red Zone but the Number of COVID-19 Positive Patients are increasing at these places. Further it is being opined, by the Experts in this field, that with opening up of Lockdown the patients are likely to increase. In this situation it is difficult for person intending to contest to visit all the places in the constituency and even the Voters would not prefer to meet the Candidates coming from various Zones.
2. Those who got infected and also those who are quarantined for varied reasons, which inter alia includes Graduate Voters too, are sentimentally disturbed and are not likely to come out of their homes and more particularly for Voting, in immediate future which will have the bearing on the said election.
3. Many Graduates have lost their Jobs and those who are Self Employed are finding it very difficult to survive and run their Business and profession as such they are very much disturbed financially as well as sentimentally. In view of this fact they are not coming forward for Enrolment as Voter and as a result out of around **25 Lakh Eligible Graduates merely 1.35 Lakh Graduates are registered as Voters** so far in Nagpur Division , which is around 6 % of the total eligible voters.

4. The Government Machinery is already burdened due to extra Load of COVID-19 which shall burden them more in the Event the Elections are announced in nearby future.
5. The substantial forms submitted for Registration as Graduate Voters are pending with the Registration Authorities those submitted Physically as well as Electronically. Since the existing voter's registration [2014 List] is deemed to have been cancelled and therefore all those over **5 Lakh** Voters already registered are required to register a fresh which itself is a very tedious process requiring reasonable time to re-register.
6. The Polling is normally taken up in Schools which are still closed and it is not clear till what time the same will be opened up. Further the Voting Booths for this Election are normally at Taluka Level and therefore Voters from Rural areas are required to Visit Taluka Places which seems difficult at this juncture.
7. Normally for the employed graduates the Degree or Marksheet is not required therefor the same is not instantly available. In majority of the cases the Degrees are dumped at the Universities who never makes an attempt to deliver the same and as such the substantial number of graduates are not having their Degree's with them and as such it will take time for them to collect the same form Universities which are practically closed.

Since I am proposing to contest the said election and therefore, I am concerned with all above happenings and the eventualities taken place due to COVID 19 situation shall have serious bearing on this election. **In nutshell it is not the favourable situation for conducting the Election, which if held without settling the situation, will prevent majority of Graduates from Voting.**

In view of the facts narrated above I earnestly request your good self that the said election may please be extended till the time the situation becomes absolutely normal and the circumstances are favourable to held the Election. The extension providing sufficient time would be in the larger interest of Graduate Voters to Elect their representative.

I am confident that your good self is very much aware about the situation and shall take the decision considering all the factors narrated above.

I would be obliged if your good self can communicate the likely course of action in this matter.

Thanking You

Yours Sincerely

CA Rajendra S. Bhutada

Place: Wardha
Date: 02.06.2020

CC to

1. Shri Ashok Lawasaji -Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
2. Sushil Chandrajji- Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
3. Shri. Baldev Singhji – Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra
4. Dr. Sanjiv Kumarji- Voter Registration Officer and Divisional Commissioner,
Nagpur Division

To,
Hon'ble Shri Shri. Baldev Singhji
The Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra State
Amarprem Bldg, Near Gokhale College,
Shimpoli Rd, Mumbai, Maharashtra -400092

Sub.: In the light of COVID-19 situation, extend the Election Programme to Elect the Member for Maharashtra Legislative Council from Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency, whose term shall expire on 19.07.2020.

Dear Sir,

The tenure of One of the Member of Maharashtra Legislative Council, *representing Graduate Constituency of Nagpur Division*, shall expire on 19.07.2020 and therefore in natural course the Election Programme for filling the said vacancy is likely to be announced at time before the expiry of the said term, like the same is being done for other elections which are either due or likely to due.

However, having regard to the tremendous disturbances and unexpected situations created due to **COVID-19** the following unwarranted difficulties/situations have been aroused, as far as this said election is concerned, which are needed to be taken into account before declaration of programme for the said Election by your good self.

1. The Nagpur Division Graduate Consistency consists of Six Districts Viz. Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, Gondia, Bhandara and Gadchiroli out of which **Nagpur District is declared as Red Zone** and though the other Districts are in Non-Red Zone but the Number of COVID-19 Positive Patients are increasing at these places. Further it is being opined, by the Experts in this field, that with opening up of Lockdown the patients are likely to increase. In this situation it is difficult for person intending to contest to visit all the places in the constituency and even the Voters would not prefer to meet the Candidates coming from various Zones.
2. Those who got infected and also those who are quarantined for varied reasons, which inter alia includes Graduate Voters too, are sentimentally disturbed and are not likely to come out of their homes and more particularly for Voting, in immediate future which will have the bearing on the said election.
3. Many Graduates have lost their Jobs and those who are Self Employed are finding it very difficult to survive and run their Business and profession as such they are very much disturbed financially as well as sentimentally. In view of this fact they are not coming forward for Enrolment as Voter and as a result out of around **25 Lakh Eligible Graduates merely 1.35 Lakh Graduates are registered as Voters** so far in Nagpur Division , which is around 6 % of the total eligible voters.

4. The Government Machinery is already burdened due to extra Load of COVID-19 which shall burden them more in the Event the Elections are announced in nearby future.
5. The substantial forms submitted for Registration as Graduate Voters are pending with the Registration Authorities those submitted Physically as well as Electronically. Since the existing voter's registration [2014 List] is deemed to have been cancelled and therefore all those over **5 Lakh** Voters already registered are required to register a fresh which itself is a very tedious process requiring reasonable time to re-register.
6. The Polling is normally taken up in Schools which are still closed and it is not clear till what time the same will be opened up. Further the Voting Booths for this Election are normally at Taluka Level and therefore Voters from Rural areas are required to Visit Taluka Places which seems difficult at this juncture.
7. Normally for the employed graduates the Degree or Marksheet is not required therefor the same is not instantly available. In majority of the cases the Degrees are dumped at the Universities who never makes an attempt to deliver the same and as such the substantial number of graduates are not having their Degree's with them and as such it will take time for them to collect the same form Universities which are practically closed.

Since I am proposing to contest the said election and therefore, I am concerned with all above happenings and the eventualities taken place due to COVID 19 situation shall have serious bearing on this election. **In nutshell it is not the favourable situation for conducting the Election, which if held without settling the situation, will prevent majority of Graduates from Voting.**

In view of the facts narrated above I earnestly request your good self that the said election may please be extended till the time the situation becomes absolutely normal and the circumstances are favourable to held the Election. The extension providing sufficient time would be in the larger interest of Graduate Voters to Elect their representative.

I am confident that your good self is very much aware about the situation and shall take the decision considering all the factors narrated above.

I would be obliged if your good self can communicate the likely course of action in this matter.

Thanking You

Yours Sincerely

CA Rajendra S. Bhutada

Place: Wardha
Date: 02.06.2020

CC to

1. Hon'ble Shri Sunil Aroraji, Chief Election Commissioner of India
2. Shri Ashok Lawasaji -Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
3. Sushil Chandraji- Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
4. Dr. Sanjiv Kumarji- Voter Registration Officer and Divisional Commissioner,
Nagpur Division