

Rajendra Bhutada

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RAJENDRA BHUTADA & CO.

CHARTERED

ACCOUNTANTS

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

Sub. : Extension of Date for Inclusion of Names of Graduates in Electoral Roll of Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency of Maharashtra Legislative Council from 6 th Nov. 2019 to 31 st May 2020.

Dear Sir,

With reference to above and in the larger interest of Graduates, it is hereby requested for your kind consideration as under, which is the feeling of large section of Graduate ranging from the age of 23 Years to Over 100 Years.

The Hon'ble Divisional Commissioner of Nagpur Division, who is in-charge for Registration of Voters and ultimately for inclusion of Names of Graduates in Electoral Roll of Nagpur Division of Graduate Constituency of Maharashtra Legislative Council, *in terms of Election Commission Of India Letter No37/LC/LET/ECI/FUNC/ERD/ER/2019 Dt. 31.07.2019*, issued the Press Note on 1st & 2nd October 2019 in News Papers, which inter alia provided that the **Last Date** for submission of forms for inclusion of Names of Graduates in Electoral Roll of Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency of Maharashtra Legislative Council shall be **06th November 2019**. From the date of Press Release to the last date prescribed for submission the available time span being too short and that too in view following circumstances is completely unjustified and therefore it is earnestly requested to kindly consider the following factual position.

1. The Assembly Elections in State of Maharashtra were announced where since last week of September 2019 the election process continued which lasted till 24th of October. In this process many unemployed graduates were hired by the various candidates for their election related work and similarly many of the employed graduates were busy in convincing the illiterate voters the importance of their vote and as such they were instrumental in ensuring that these Voters exercise their fundamental rights.
2. The Employees of Government, *who themselves are Graduates*, were engrossed in Election duties, hectic meetings etc. and after the declaration of results, the respective Collectors have given the Holiday in lieu of Extended duties and further Holidays on account of Diwali and finally the Government Offices were practically open from 1st November 2019. There after immediately on account of Saturday and Sunday the offices remained closed and as such the time available to submit the forms was just **Three Days** which is highly inadequate in the light of huge number of Graduates expected to be registered.

3. In terms of the above referred press release all the existing voter's registration is deemed to have been cancelled and all those, over 5 Lacs Voters already registered, were required to be registered a fresh which itself is a very tedious process requiring reasonable time to re-register.
4. In terms of the said press release the Copy of Degree/Diploma or Marksheet is required to be attested by the Gazetted Officers for which the required number of Officers were neither available nor it was possible for them to attest in such a large number.
5. Normally for the employed graduates the Degree or Marksheet is not required in day to day life therefore the same is not available instantly. In majority of the cases the Degrees are dumped at the Universities who never makes an attempt to deliver the same either to Colleges or to the Graduates and as such the substantial number of Graduates are not having their Degree's with them and as such in absence thereof they are likely to be denied of their Fundamental Rights to exercise their franchisee for which the GOI is making tireless efforts to increase the voting percentage.
6. The Graduate Constituency of Nagpur Division consists of 32 Assembly Constituencies having more than over 25,00,000 Graduates who are eligible for an Enrolment as a voter and in view of such a large number it is impossible to get enrolled within such short span of time.
7. Since in past, the dates for an enrolment have been extended by multiple times therefore it was general belief that the last date of **06.11.2019** would continue to be extended till May 2020 and as such as the Graduates have bona fide belief that they would be given reasonable time to submit their form No. 18 and as such the non-extension would cause high injustice to them with their fundamental right.
8. The entire Government Working is now system based and even in elections instead of Ballet Paper the EVMS are introduced for better transparency, security and fast counting of votes but for such a huge number of Graduates, who are spread out in various rural part of their respective constituencies, for whom the Form Collection Centre is far away, and thus the facility of Online Registration if provided would have not only helped them but also expedited the registration process leading to provide an opportunity to each graduate at one end and avoidance of duplication work at the end of Election Section of GOI would have been ensured leading to saving in substantial time of Government Machinery. It is needless to mention that this initiative would have saved Thousand Tons of Paper resulting into Conservation of an Environment.
9. The Printing of Forms for enrolment was the responsibility of Government Machinery but the same were not made available with the Respective Election Offices immediately after publishing of Press Release. Practically the forms were available only after 1st Nov 2019. In initial days from 15th Oct .2019 they insisted to take Photocopy of form which was available to them in limited quantity. This fact can be checked with the respective Election Officers with whom now the large number of Blank Forms have remained undistributed .
10. On 4th November 2019 the News Item appeared in E- Loksatta, *the Leading Newspaper in Maharashtra State*, became viral on Social Media containing the Statement of Divisional Commissioner of Pune Region, Dr. Deepak Mhaisekar, that for similar kind of Elections and

Press Release which inter alia mentioned that the Voters would be allowed to be registered from 1st January 2020 till the time that will be 10 days ahead for filling of Nominations for such Election, due to which the graduates thought that instead of making huge crowd in last dates it is better to register later on with convenience . In the event if all these graduates would have proceeded for their enrolment at 161 designated Centres in Six Districts , those allowed to accept registration forms in this Graduate Constituency, then it would have been extremely difficult for the Government Machinery to handle such a huge crowd, as the Law itself requires an individual voter to submit his own form in person.

11. The data relating to number of forms submitted till 6.00 pm on 6.11.2019 would reveal that the submission thereof at all the 161 collection Centre in Six Districts Viz Wardha, Nagpur, Gondia Bhandara Gadchiroli, Chandrapur consisting 32 Assembly Constituencies **is negligible in % terms** as compared to the total eligible graduates voters intending to be registered and such the whole purpose will be defeated if the date is not extended.

12. The term of existing MLC shall expire on 19.07.2020 and thus an Election for this graduate constituency is likely to take place in July 2020 for which more than 8 Months' time is still available within which the Voter List preparation can be done without any haste and therefore the last date of enrolment being 6th November 2019 has no significance by any means.

In view of above facts your kind honour is requested that the date for **Inclusion of Names of Graduates in Electoral Roll of Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency of Maharashtra Legislative Council may please be extended from 6 th Nov. 2019 to 31 st May 2020 in order to exercise** the fundamental right of the graduates, which is provided to them by the constitution of India to select their representative from themselves for Upper House of Assembly, for raising their related issues.

The timely announcement of an extension by providing sufficient time to enrol would not only be in the larger interest of Graduates but also for the Nation, which is the Top priority of any Government .

Thanking You

Yours's Sincerely

CA Rajendra S. Bhutada

Place: Wardha

Date: 06.11.2019

CC to

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