

To,

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

Voter Registration Officer

Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency

Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division

Nagpur

Sub.: Extension of Date for Inclusion of Names of Graduates in Electoral Roll of Nagpur Division Graduate Constituency of Maharashtra Legislative Council till 31 st May 2020 and Addressing of Other Issues encountered in Voter Registration.

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.

1. Your Honor 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**. Since on account of many varied reasons the time limit being too short I and many others have requested to extend the date for enrollment.
2. Though the respective Collectors in Six Districts have issued an Internal Instructions to their various departments to get enrolled between 23.11.2019 to 09.12.2019 but we could not find any such announcement for common Graduate Voters and as such they were not in general aware about such extended time limit. It is also noticed that at present those who have submitted their Forms for Enrollment are the Graduates which mainly consists of Teaching Community and those who are registered by the different wings of Political Parties but beside this there is large section of Graduates in Industry, Trade, NGO's, Banks, Credit Co-Op Societies, PSU's, LIC of India, RBI, Courts, Various Semi Government Departments, Professional like Chartered Accountants , Doctors, Lawyers, Architects, Consultants , Self Employed Persons, Unemployed Graduates etc. who have not yet enrolled themselves for various reasons mentioned here-in-after.

3. Since **I have Planned to contest the Election of Graduate Constituency of Nagpur Region likely to be held in July 2020** , therefore I am on awareness drive of Voter Registration where it has been experienced that barring the Teaching Community in general there is no awareness about this Constituency and that is the reason the Voter Registration is not more than 25 % of total Voters in past till 2014 and in First Phase of registration in 2019 was not more than 3 % of Total Graduates and therefore the effective drive to make the Graduates aware about their fundamental right is much needed step in order to have a representation from the larger section of Graduates . In the light of this fact the very purpose of this Constituency is needed to be informed to the Graduates so that they will get motivated for enrollment. Even the % of Voting in past as compared to total registration is not exceeding 25% which is an endanger to the largest democracy of the World therefore it is also necessary to educate the Graduates to cast their valuable Vote.
4. While on awareness drive of Voter Registration I came across following practical difficulties/issues due to which the Graduates are intending to Register.
 - a. The Graduates are not in Possession of Degrees/Copies of marksheets for many reasons.
 - b. The Online Voter Registration facility since not available therefore travelling of long Distance for submission of Forms becomes a tedious and expensive process.
 - c. Those who were registered earlier is if view that once registered then either not required to register or they contend that why every time there is need for an Enrollment. It is again argued by them why there is disparity as compared to the other Voter List [i.e. for Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Local Bodies Etc.] where once registered are not required to do it Again. It is further argued by the Graduates that in case of death of enrolled Voter otherwise also there are no chances of bogus Voting since the Voting is allowed only after producing the Valid ID Proof. It is again argued by many Graduates that once the person completes his Graduation then there is no provision in law to declare him that he is no more Graduate. So, in nutshell re Enrollment is not necessitated.
 - d. For attestation of Degrees the Original is required to be produced before Gazetted Officer which in many of the cases the same is not available for varied reasons

- e. The Voters from the Village/ Town where Voting Booth is not available are not inclined to go for Voting since it is the expensive and time consuming affair to go to Taluka Place for Voting coupled with the fact that the time of Voting being Rainy reason the Voters from Rural Area finds it very difficult to travel to Taluka Place. and therefore, they are not inclined for Voter registration.
5. The following Instructions issues by the Authorities have come to my notice which has a bearing on this submission which seems to be in the larger interest of the Graduates.
- a. The Press Note issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Pune on 4th November 2019 that the Voter Registration will continue from 1st January 2020 till the time 10 days ahead of time limit allowed for filling of Nominations.
 - b. Instruction issued by the Election Commission of India dated 05th Sept 2016 in which it is directed in clause No 11 that the Electoral Roll to be Computerized and in Clause No 14 it is mentioned that the Electoral Roll to be updated continuously till the last date of Nominations.
 - c. The Chief Election Officer of Maharashtra State have issued Instruction on 26th November 2019 to the Divisional Commissioner, Pune to make an arrangement for Online Registration of Voters.

The Copies of above documents are attached herewith for your kind perusal and necessary action.

PRAYER

In the light of above difficulties your kind honor is requested as under.

- I. Make the in general Graduates aware about the Purpose of this Constituency and appeal them to Enroll in Large numbers.
- II. Make and arrangement for Online Registration
- III. Delete the Condition of Attestation by the Gazetted Officer on Marksheet/Degrees else allow all the Principals of Colleges and Head masters of Schools to attest the same, which is now restricted to the Government Colleges and Schools since they are not sizable to attest in such large numbers.

- IV. Announce the new dates for submission for submission of Physical Forms with the respective authority.
- V. Instruct to accept Physical Forms across all the Centers in Six Districts irrespective of the location of Graduate Voter since in any case the list of Voters is being Computerized. Else through the Government Machinery the Forms of respective locations can be delivered.
- VI. Instruct the Universities to arrange for Distribution of Degrees to the Graduates which are Lying with it and also with various colleges. Further Instruct them Display the names of Graduates on their Web sites which should be considered as Valid Proof of Graduation.

Having regard to the graduate constituency of Nagpur Division, which consist of 32 Assemblies constating of more than over 25,00,000 Graduates, who are illegible for an enrolment as a voter for Graduate Constituency, therefore the suitable instructions may please be given in the larger interest of democracy , in respect of all the issues/difficulties narrated above and an announcement for fresh dates of enrolment having extension till 31st May 2020 may please be announced as the election for this constituency is likely to be held in July 2020.

Thanking You

Yours's Sincerely

CA Rajendra S. Bhutada

Place: Wardha

Date: 10.12.2019

CC to

1. Shri Sunil Aroraji, The Chief Election Commissioner of India, New Delhi - 110001
2. Shri Ashok Lawasaji -Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
3. Sushil Chandra- Election Commissioner Of India- New Delhi
4. Shri. Baldev Singh – Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra
5. Collector of Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Gondia, Bhandara and Gadchiroli Districts