

**OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, MANIPUR**

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**PRESS NOTE**

As per the recommendation of Election Commission of India, the Ministry of Law & Justice has amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The amendment covers the aspects of multiple qualifying dates for registration in the electoral roll, furnishing of Aadhaar number by the existing electors and citizens seeking registration in the electoral roll, gender neutral provisions for service electors and special electors and power to acquire premises for the conduct of elections.

**Multiple qualifying dates**

CEO, Manipur, Shri Rajesh Agrawal stated that as per existing policy, revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1st January of the coming year as the qualifying date was done normally in the later part of each year in all States/UTs (normally in the last quarter of a year) so that final publication of the electoral rolls is made in the first week of January of the succeeding year. This meant that a large number of young persons who completed 18 years after 1st January had to wait for Special Summary Revision of the next year for enrolment and were not able to participate in elections held in the intervening period.

Highlighting the recent Amendment notified by the Ministry of Law & Justice dated 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, CEO Manipur stated that **there will be four qualifying dates i.e., 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October as eligibility for youngsters to register in electoral rolls as opposed to the earlier single qualifying date of 1st January only.** Now, 17+ year old youngsters can apply in advance for having their names enrolled in voter's list and not necessarily have to await the pre-requisite criterion of attaining age of 18 years on 1st January of a year. The youth may file their advance applications with reference to three subsequent qualifying dates i.e. 1st April, 1st July and 1st October and not just 1st January. Henceforth, the Electoral Roll will be updated every quarter and eligible youngsters can be registered in the next quarter of the year in which he/she has attained the qualifying age of 18 years. After getting registered, he/she will be issued an Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

CEO, Manipur informed that for the current round of annual revision of electoral roll, 2023, any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter from the date of draft publication of electoral roll i.e. 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The Commission has also made the registration Forms more user friendly and simpler. The newly modified Forms will come into force on 1st August, 2022.

## **Programme for Collection of Aadhaar data from electors**

CEO, Manipur while noting that Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are now statutorily authorized to obtain Aadhaar number from every person whose name is in the electoral roll as per the Amendment, **a State wide intensive programme will be starting from today onwards for collection of Aadhaar from the electors. The programme will be completed with the target of achieving 100% electors registered in the electoral database by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023.** The objective of the programme is to establish the identity of electors and authentication of entries in electoral roll. This will help in identifying registration of name of the same person in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

## **Methodology of Aadhaar collection**

CEO, Manipur also pointed that the collection of Aadhaar numbers in Form 6B may be done online by the electors themselves or through offline. **An elector may fill Form 6B online on NVSP or Voter Helpline App as applicable and self authenticate Aadhaar using OTP to be received on his mobile number registered with UIDAI.** In case the elector does not want to self-authenticate or self-authentication fails during the process, the elector can submit Form 6B with necessary attachments online without authentication.

**As an offline mode, the EROs will be deploying BLOs for House-to-House visit for collection of Aadhaar number from electors in hard copy using Form 6B.** All the Forms 6B submitted offline shall be digitised by BLOs using GARUDA App or by ERO using ERONET, within 7 days of the receipt of the Forms.

## **Furnishing of Aadhaar number is voluntary**

The purpose of obtaining Aadhaar number is to authenticate electors' entries in electoral roll and for extending better electoral services to them in future. In case, the elector does not have the Aadhaar number and thereby is not able to furnish Aadhaar Number, he/she needs to submit a copy of any of the eleven alternative documents viz. MGNREGA Job Card, Passbook with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity card with photograph issued to employees by Central/State/Govt/PSUs/Public Limited Companies, Official Identities Card issued to MPS/MLAs/MLCs, and Unique Identity ID(UDID) Card issued by M/o Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India.

## **Gender neutral provision for Service and Special Electors**

CEO, Manipur also highlighted that the word "wife" has been substituted by the word "spouse" in relevant sections of Representation of People Act, 1950 and Representation of People Act, 1951. Accordingly, the husband of a female service personnel can now register as service elector along with his wife. Earlier, only the wife of a male service personnel was allowed to register as service elector along with her husband.

## **Power to requisition premises for the purpose of conduct of elections**

It was also informed that Section 160 of Representation of People Act, 1951 has been amended to the extent that the election authorities are empowered to requisition any premises likely to be needed for the purpose of being used as **polling station, for counting, for storage of ballot boxes, voting machines (including voter verifiable paper audit trail) and poll related material after a poll has been taken, accommodation for security forces and polling personnel** after the issuance of the election notification by the Election Commission under Section 30 of RPA, 1951.

While reiterating the importance of furnishing Aadhaar by the electors, Shri Rajesh Agrawal, CEO, Manipur emphasised that the said exercise will help in authenticating the entries of electors and to provide better electoral services in future at the time of elections. CEO, Manipur hereby appeals all electors to come forward and furnish their Aadhaar numbers voluntarily either online through NVSP or Voter Helpline App or by submitting physically to their respective BLOs or to EROs.

Sd/-

**(Rajesh Agrawal)**  
**Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur**

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**(Ramananda Nongmeikapam)**  
**Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur**