



State Election Commission Maharashtra

SEC/ZPPS-2021/C.N 5 /D7,
New Administration Building,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Madam Cama Road,
Opposite Mantralaya,
Mumbai: - 400 032.
Date: 9th July, 2021

To,
The Collector,
Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim and Nagpur

Sub: Regarding stay to the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti bye-election process at the stage as on today i.e. 09/07/2021...

Ref: 1) State Election Commission's bye-election programme dated 22/6/2021.
2) Letter of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra dtd. 7/7/2021
3) Report of Public Health Department dtd. 09/07/2021
4) Report of Disaster Management Department dtd. 08/07/2021
5) Report of concerned five District Collectors.

Sir,

In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the State Election Commission Maharashtra (SECM) had declared a bye-election program for 5 Zilla Parishads and 33 Panchayat Samitis for total seats of 70 Electoral Divisions and 130 Electoral Colleges in the districts of Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim and Nagpur. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra vide his letter dtd. 07/07/2021 had requested SECM to postpone these bye elections in the light of the Covid 19 situation and the prohibitory orders and lockdown restrictions in view of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dtd. 06/07/2021 in MA 902 of 2021 in WP 980 of 2019.

The SEC had convened a meeting wherein Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Public Health), Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development), Principal Secretary (Disaster Management) and other officers were present in order to ascertain the prevailing Covid 19 situation, prohibitory orders and lockdown restrictions in the five districts concerned. These officers were asked to provide some additional information in writing. Besides, all the 5 collectors of the districts under reference were asked to submit their report of the situation on specific issues mentioned by SECM. Accordingly, Additional Chief Secretary (Public Health), and Principal Secretary (Disaster Management) submitted their reports with regard to the prevailing situation and lockdown restrictions. The Collectors also submitted their reports today in writing.

The Commission has taken note of the reports of all concerned and has noted that second wave has not completely subsided and a threat of third wave is quite serious along with spread of Delta plus virus and other variants in the state in general and the electoral constituencies in particular. The SEC has also noted the imposition of stringent prohibitory orders and the strict lockdown restrictions in the said areas. The SEC has a constitutional mandate of conducting election in a free, fair and transparent manner, and therefore, the Commission is of opinion that in the present Covid 19 situation and with the current lockdown and prohibitory restrictions, it would not be conducive to hold polls on 19/07/2021 as per the declared election program.

As per the schedule, the steps of filing of nomination forms, scrutiny of forms and declaring the list of validly nominated candidates have been completed till today. The steps of withdrawal of nomination forms and symbol allotment are still pending.

Considering the above stated position, the SEC has stayed the above stated Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti bye election process **at the stage as on today** i.e. 09/07/2021. The Commission shall keep a close watch on the situation in all these 5 districts where election process was started. As the situation improves and becomes conducive for the conduct of elections, SEC will declare the election program for completing the pending steps of election process for these bye elections.

It is clarified that the model code of conduct shall cease to operate from today, in the said areas.

As per the order of the State Election Commissioner,

Yours,


(Kiran Kurundkar)
Secretary,

State Election Commission, Maharashtra

Copy to: -

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development Department