ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 23/1/2015-ERS

Dated:27th February, 2015

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers
Of all States/Union Territories

Subject: Improvement in Electoral Roll - Launching of National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP) on 03.03.2015- regarding

Sir/Madam,

It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that even after completion of summary revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2015, numerous types of errors and defects, viz. multiple entries, repeating images, repeating EPIC number etc. still exist. The procedures of correction of errors, deletion of multiple entries and replacement EPIC are not streamlined or not followed properly in some states. The field level functionaries such as EROs / AEROs / BLOs are not giving desired attention to the disposal of such complaints within the given time frame. This has been causing a lot of inconvenience to the voters who, in turn blame the Commission for such scenario. This situation is totally unacceptable. The Commission gives highest priority to the maintenance of electoral roll and has reiterated that the roll should be without any defects, errors and multiple entries. In some cases, the courts have expressed concern on defective rolls. There is also a need to generate awareness among citizens as to how they can avail the facility of on line applications.

2.   Hence, the Commission, with the objective of bringing a totally error free and authenticated electoral roll and after considering the inputs of CEOs, has decided to launch a comprehensive programme, i.e. "**National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP)**, from 03.03.2015 with a clear timeline and well defined goal.

3.   **Major Objectives of NERPAP**

    (i)   Linking and authentication of EPIC data of electors with Aadhar data of UIDAI <u>only</u> ,

    (ii)   Voluntary disclosure by the electors concerned of multiple entries pertaining to them and disposal of such cases within 15 days by the concerned EROs under intimation to the concerned electors.

    (iii)   Corrections of errors or any relevant entry pertaining to electors within 15 days on production of cogent documentary evidence.

    (iv)   Improvement of image quality, wherever requested, by following the due procedure.

    (v)   Obtaining and feeding in the ER database ,the mobile and email address of the electors so that   periodic information of poll day,

revision schedule, deletion/correction notice etc and other facilitation services can be provided to them

4.   **Methodology of Aadhar Feeding**

Feeding of Aadhar number in EPIC database will be done in the following manner:-

(A) Feeding of Aadhar number and EPIC number by electors through :-
(i)   National Voters Service Portal (NVSP) using web services through Election Commission website.
(ii)   SMS to '51969'
(iii) E-mail
(iv)   Mobile app which is under development and is likely to be available by 1st week of March, 2015.
(v)   By making a call at toll free number '1950' to State call centres.
(vi)   By submitting the details of Aadhar number and EPIC number in a hard copy of duly filled up Format (**Annexure-A**) along with photocopy of both the documents, namely, EPIC and Aadhar letter/card.

(B) Collection and feeding of Aadhar by electoral machinery:-
(i)   BLO will collect the details of electors during door to door survey/ visit.
(ii)   The EROs / AEROs will also collect the aforesaid details through Voter Facilitation Centres, e-Seva centres and Citizen Service Centres authorised by the DEOs.

In both of the cases EROs will have to get the data entry done on NVSP portal.

The methodology developed by the CEO, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana in the state to link Aadhar data with EPIC data can simultaneously be adopted along with national model in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. If some other states have developed their own methodology/application, the same can also be adopted by the concerned states. IT division of ECI shall ensure integration of the data at the state and central level

5.   **Preparatory Activities of NERPAP**

For launching of NERPAP, the preparatory activities will be completed in the following manner:-

(i)   CEOs will issue similar circulars to DEOs by 28.02.2015 and hold a VC at their levels to brief the DEOs / EROs about NERPAP programme.
(ii)   On 03.03.2015, CEOs / DEOs / EROs will formally launch the said programme at the State, District and AC levels and apprise the political parties, media, NGOs and CSOs and seek their active co-operation.

(iii) CEOs will make an effort that BLOs are also able to launch this programme at the booth level.

(iv) BLOs will form **Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs)** which will include Booth level government functionaries, para workers, representatives of Local body, BLAs, BLVs, Head or representative of Schools/Colleges in the Booth area, NSS/ NYK volunteers and member representatives of local CSO/NGO ensuring that members other than BLAs are not aligned to any political party

(v) As far as possible, video documentation to be done of the events at the ERO, DEO levels.

(vi) A focused SVEEP campaign to be launched by CEOs/DEOs and EROs. Standard set of posters/pamphlets/publicity materials should be prepared and distributed by CEOs.

(vii) Proper training be imparted with a focus on NERPAP to DEOs, EROs/AEROs and BLOs.

(viii) State Call centre with toll free number '1950' shall be made functional immediately. Proper records of calls received shall be maintained for audit and scrutiny.

A detailed action plan for each activity of the programme will be chalked out by the CEOs and sent to the Commission for information.

6.   **Various Other Activities during NERPAP**

6.1 Special Camps

A nation-wide Special Camp will be organized at the booth levels in all assembly constituencies in the country by EROs for the abovementioned activities on 12.04.2015 (Sunday).

(a) Thereafter, at least one special camp will be organized every month on any Sunday, to be fixed by CEOs.

(b) Special Observers will be appointed by CEOs to observe and review the programme, under intimation to the ECI.

(c) Senior officers of the Commission will review the progress of the programme regarding their states periodically by holding VCs and making visits to the respective states or any other states as desired by the Commission

(d) CEOs will also visit to the districts and review the progress and ensure that targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

(e) DEOs shall make inspection of at least two or three constituencies in their districts every month and give a detailed report to their CEOs.

(f) EROs will make inspection of at least 10 Polling Stations and Sector Officers will make inspection of at least 5 Polling Stations every month and give report to DEOs.

(g) CEOs will give wide publicity about the date, time and place of Special Camps by media initiatives.

(h) An online-monitoring format will be developed by the IT division of the Commission to review the progress from Booth level to the State level and CEOs will furnish a consolidated report of their States to the Commission on a weekly basis.

6.2   Linking of Aadhar Data with Electoral Database

Linking of Aadhar number with EPIC database will be done as per the methodology indicated in a separate instruction being issued by the IT division of the Commission. Authentication shall be done using Aadhar number only.

6.3   Campaign for Voluntary Disclosure of Multiple Entries by the Voters:-

It is observed that the electors are unaware of the penal provisions under law if they have multiple registration in the electoral roll. They are not coming forward to disclose their names if they are registered in more than one place .If they disclose this, then the entries from the places other than the place where they are ordinarily resident can be deleted from rolls. With a view to give such voters who have their names registered in the electoral rolls at more than one place a chance to disclose their multiple entry(ies) , the Commission has announced a 'Campaign for Voluntary Disclosure of Multiple Entries by the Voters'.

CEOs will give advertisements in print/Radio/Electronic media, Cinema Halls and other communication channels regarding voluntary disclosure of multiple entries. It would be explained in advertisements that enrolment at more than one place on the basis of false declaration is punishable offence under the provision of Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The elector with multiple registrations in electoral roll(s) should be encouraged to come forward and use the facility given during the programme. The elector should be advised to fill Form-7 for deletion of their names from the places except the place where he/she ordinarily resides. An appreciation certificate may be issued to all those electors who voluntarily disclose their multiple entries and get their names deleted from the unwanted places.

The electors may submit Form-7 through Web Portal of NVSP or at ERO's Facilitation Centres /Special Camps/Other Centres such as E-Seva, CSC and so on.

7.   **Role of ERO and AERO**

ERO of every AC shall ensure that updated copy of electoral rolls is available at each polling station and all such other places where special camps are being organised. This programme has two aspects-

(A) 1st object is to collect Aadhar number + EPIC number and mobile number / e-mail ID of each elector using the methods mentioned above (i.e. feeding), followed by entering the Aadhar number in

EPIC database (i.e. seeding) and then authentication by linking the Aadhar database with EPIC database using Aadhar number.

In this aspect the role of the ERO /AERO is to ensure that maximum data of Aadhar number is collected and seeded.

(B) The 2nd object of this programme is to ensure that any error in particulars of any existing entry is corrected including photo updation/replacement (wherever requested) and the roll is free from all multiple entries.

In this process the concerned elector will need to submit the Form 7/ Form 8. Some Form 6 and 8A are also likely to be received. All such Forms shall have to be disposed of by the concerned EROs/AEROs as per statutory provisions and the Commission's guidelines without any avoidable delay. For hearing, where necessary, either the ERO or the AERO shall be available at their office or at the special camps.

The other points are mentioned below-

(a) Wide publicity of NERPAP and availability of Electoral Roll at the Polling station levels.

(b) The EROS shall keep a close watch on voluntary disclosure of multiple entries scheme and will intimate to the Commission through DEO/CEO the progress/response in this regard.

(c) EROs to provide facility to link authenticated documents at special camps /facilitation centers

(d) After correction of particulars / replacement of photograph, no replacement EPIC shall be issued but a photo voter slip with corrected details / replaced photograph with signature of concerned ERO / AERO/ BLO shall be given.

(e) In case the elector makes a request for replacement EPIC that can be issued to him on payment of necessary charge for replacement EPIC.

8.   **SVEEP Campaign**

Success of the programme will depend on effective SVEEP campaign initiative by the CEOs, therefore, the Commission has directed that a 360 Degree Publicity Campaign should be mounted in the following ways:-

(a) Launch of the campaign at every Polling Station through public meeting, explaining about the aims and objectives of NERPAP, reading out rolls, distribution of pamphlets, pasting of posters.

(b) Training the Booth Level Officer and the members of Booth Awareness Groups

(c) Publicity through Print Media, Electronic Channels, Radio, Internet and Mobile Phones and any other method as per local needs.

(d) Publicity Campaign through ECI/CEO/ DEOs Portal. Linking of these portals with other important government websites frequently visited by the public.

(e) Digital Banner Publicity through Face book, YouTube, Twitter, and other important Internet Gateways

(f) Piggybacking on major grass root level government programmes of health, education, rural development, sanitation and Panchayat Raj institutions and so on

(g) Use of Call Centres at State and district levels

(h) Motivation and Award for BLO, ERO and DEO: Award for 100 % achievers at BLO, ERO, DEO and CEO levels in three categories of authentication, correction and deletion of multiple entries.

9.   **Partnership with Stakeholders**

NERPAP is a citizen centric programme where full cooperation of electors is most important. To ensure active public participation following activities will be done at the state, district or ERO level;

(i) Meeting and briefing of Political Parties at State, District and AC levels and requesting them to nominate BLAs for every PS. (Pertinent to mention that BLAs appointed earlier will continue as BLA unless their appointment is revoked by the political party concerned).

(ii) Actively associating BLAs and BLVs in this campaign.

(iii) Briefing media regularly and actively associating them in this programme.

(iv) Working closely with Civil Society organizations.

(v) Taking active support of educational institutions and schools in popularizing this programme.

(vi) Taking active support of all youth and community based organizations.

(vii) Ensuring active participation of Local Bodies in this programme.

10.   **Work Plan**

CEOs will ensure that various events of the programme are completed within the period given in the following work plan approved by the Commission:-

Sl. No.	Events	Period
1	Awareness building	Throughout the period from 01.03.2015 to 31.07.2015
2	Appointment of BLOs at each polling station	By 15.03.2015
3	Formation of Booth Level Awareness Group	By 15.03.2015
4	Organization of special camp	1st camp – 12.04.2015 (Sunday)
5	Monthly special camps	On any Sunday of the month as fixed by the CEO

The programme should be completed by fixing and achieving the tentative targets in the following manner –

- ✓ 10% by 31.03.2015
- ✓ 25% (cumulative 35%) by 30.04.2015
- ✓ 30% (cumulative 60%) by 31.05.2015
- ✓ 30% (cumulative 85%) by 30.06.2015
- ✓ 5% (cumulative 100%) by 31.07.2015
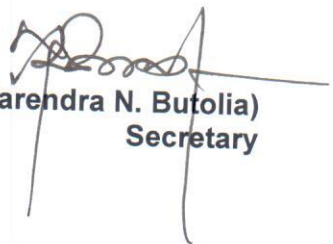
11. **Monitoring and Submission of Reports**

As mentioned above, the Commission will review the progress of NERPAP regularly. The Commission has also directed that CEO shall monitor the programme closely while stock taking of the situation, target achieved and review of remaining work with DEOs and EROs from time to time. They will obtain periodic reports of the work done and furnish an AC wise consolidated report in respect of his State to the Commission as per the schedule below:

1st report	For month of March	By 07.04.2015
2nd report	For month of April	By 07.05.2015
3rd report	For month of May	By 07.06.2015
4th report	For month of June	By 07.07.2015
Final report	For month of July	By 07.08.2015
Compilation of final report	--------------------	By 15.08.2015

12. Instructions on technical aspects are being sent by IT Division separately.

13. If there is any constraint /problem in implementing the above mentioned instructions, the concerned CEO should bring it to the notice of the Commission.

Kindly ensure compliance of the above guidelines immediately.

Yours faithfully,

(Narendra N. Butolia)
Secretary

Application for Aadhaar Submission in Hard Copy

Name of the elector   ....

EPIC No   ....

Aadhaar No   ....

Date of Submission   ....

Signature of the elector :................................

e-mail ID:................................

Mobile Number:................................

Place:................................

N.B. : Photocopy of both the documents viz EPIC and Aadhar letter / card should also be attached with the application