

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001.

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PRESS NOTE

The Delimitation Commission, set up under the Delimitation Act, 2002, for the redelimitation of all Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies of India (except Jammu & Kashmir) on the basis of 1991 census, is carrying out its task for the entire country. The statutory work being done is at various stages for different States in the country.

The Election Commission of India has drawn the attention of the Delimitation Commission to the fact that out of 28 States in the country, 4 States are scheduled to go for elections in the first quarter of 2003. Additionally, to ensure that all those who attain the age of 18 years on 01.01.2003 are eligible to cast their franchise revision of electoral rolls is underway in all States including these 4 States of Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. The final publication for these rolls is to take place on 6th January, 2003. The rolls are being revised with reference to existing constituencies. In Himachal Pradesh and Tripura, the draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission have also been published and public sittings scheduled to be held shortly. The work of delimitation in Meghalaya and Nagaland is also in advanced stage. As soon as the delimitation order of the Delimitation Commission is finalised, the existing constituencies will cease to exist and would be replaced by new constituencies, that is, redelimited constituencies. This would necessitate reworking of the finally published rolls and recasting them into the newly redelimited constituencies.

The Election Commission of India has apprised the Delimitation Commission that this exercise of recasting the electoral rolls into the newly redelimited constituencies may take such time as may intrude into the schedule of elections for the four States of Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, as there are specific dates by when the new Assembly in these States have to be constituted. Therefore, for this very technical reason, the Election Commission of India has requested the Delimitation Commission not to finalise the delimitation work relating to all these four States till the elections are held and the new Assemblies are constituted on the basis of existing constituencies. The Delimitation Commission has agreed to the request of the Election Commission of India.

(Shangara Ram)
Secretary