

DELIMITATION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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No. 282/DEL/2007

Dated 17th August, 2007

PRESS NOTE

The Delimitation Commission started its current phase of work on the basis of 2001 census from June, 2004 after the completion of the Lok Sabha elections. As on date the Commission has already issued final notifications in respect of 25 States. The work in three States, namely, Assam, Arunchal Pradesh and Nagaland has been stayed by the Guwahati High Court in Writ Petitions pending before the High Court. The appeal of the Union of India in respect of Manipur State is pending in the Supreme Court. In all these court cases the legality of the 2001 census has been challenged. The net result is that except the four above-mentioned, North-Eastern States, the delimitation process has been completed in all respects for 3726 Assembly Constituencies and 513 Lok Sabha Constituencies in rest of the country.

The Delimitation Commission has followed a transparent procedure while carrying out the exercise. In the past three years, the Commission has held 130 public sittings in 67 cities/towns all over the country. In the process, the Commission heard objections/suggestions against the draft proposals from 7119 persons. About 1,25,000 people were present during the deliberations at the venues where the public sittings were conducted. As a rough estimate, more than 20 crores of public money have so far been spent on the delimitation exercise.

As per the provisions of Section 9 (2) (d) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, the Commission has been issuing the final delimitation orders for each State immediately on the completion of the exercise for that State. Under Section 10 (2) of the Act, every such order, on publication in the Gazette of India has the force of law. Articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution of India stipulate that the readjustment of Constituencies shall take effect from such date as the President, may by order, specify.

The Delimitation Commission having completed and notified the work in respect of twenty-five States of the country, it would be obligatory for the Central Government to have the Presidential Order issued for the implementation of the readjustment in respect of 513 Lok Sabha and 3726 Assembly Constituencies in these States. The fact that the work in respect of the four North-Eastern States has been delayed because of the court orders, is no reason for not implementing the orders already notified by Delimitation Commission, which have the force of law under the Delimitation Act, 2002.

Sd/-
(SHANGARA RAM)
SECRETARY