

Delimitation Commission

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

No. DL/PN-2/2003

Dated : 21st March, 2003.

PRESS NOTE

The Delimitation Commission has been carrying out its activities which involve delimiting all Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the country except in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, on the basis of the 1991 Census figures. The intention of the Commission has been to finish this task preferably well in time before the 2004 general elections to the Lok Sabha so that the lay public and the political order have sufficient time to react to the changes in the constituency limits that the delimitation exercise would bring about.

The Delimitation Commission was apprised by the Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice that the Associate Members, they are elected members of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature nominated by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, have conveyed that they are not being consulted/associated in the process of formulation of draft delimitation proposals. Possibly this feeling had gathered ground because the Commission first internally works out the tentative delimitation proposals and uses this as a working paper to have its discussions with the Associate Members.

However, the Delimitation Commission has always felt that due regard and respect has to be given to the views of the Associate Members while carrying out the delimitation exercise and has endeavoured to do this. However, since it has been brought to the notice of the Delimitation Commission that there is some dissatisfaction amongst Associate Members on the methodology that has been adopted by the Commission while carrying out its functions, the Delimitation Commission has written back to the Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice saying that from now onwards the Associate Members would be called for the first meeting soon after the Part I and Part II of the working

paper is finalised indicating the proposed allocation of assembly seats to various districts in the State and also showing the proposed distribution of seats for Scheduled Castes among the various districts. Henceforth, only after these discussions would the Commission commence to work out the proposed territorial extent of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies and the constituencies which are proposed to be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This position has been explained to the Associate Members from Delhi in the meeting with Associate Members held today.

The proposals will then again be discussed in the meeting with the Associate Members and thereafter the working paper will be finalised as the Commission's draft proposal for publication to which the Associate Members are further entitled to give their note of dissent, if they so desire. Thereafter the Commission's working paper together with note of dissent, if any, would be discussed at public hearings where the Associate Members along with the Commission Members would be present.

The Delimitation Commission feels that this modified arrangement would take care of the dissatisfaction that is being felt by the Associate Members.

(C.R. Brahmam)

Secretary