

DELIMITATION COMMISSION

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

No.DL/PN-1/2002/

Dated : 26th August, 2002

PRESS NOTE

Subject : Delimitation Commission Meeting

The first meeting of the full Delimitation Commission was held today at Nirvachan Sadan. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh, Chairman of the Delimitation Commission. Shri B.B. Tandon, Election Commissioner of India and the State Election Commissioners of all States and the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry attended the meeting as ex-officio members of the Delimitation Commission.

The Chairman Delimitation Commission briefed the members on the procedures that would be adopted for delimiting assembly and parliamentary constituencies under the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002. Shri B.B. Tandon, explained the requirement that the 1991 Census data would be retabulated on the basis of current administrative and developmental units as a pre-cursor to the readjustment of boundaries of assembly constituencies. The preparatory action taken for obtaining population data and maps of administrative and developmental units was explained.

After the population data and maps are obtained, the Secretariat of the Delimitation Commission will do a preliminary exercise for each State of readjusting boundaries. The office proposals will be discussed in a meeting of the full Delimitation Commission with the State Election Commissioner of the concerned State. They will then be discussed with the Associate Members and finalised. The draft proposals will be published in the Gazette of India and in the Gazette of the State concerned and dates fixed for public hearings. The draft proposals will also be published in the vernacular newspapers. The suggestions made in the hearings will be examined by the Delimitation Commission and a

final order drawn up which will then be gazetted, and also published in the vernacular newspapers.

The members appreciated the magnitude of the task and complexities due to the fact that the readjustment was being attempted after a gap of about 30 years.

It was unanimously decided to set the guidelines to be followed by the officials of the Delimitation Commission while doing the preliminary exercise. The boundaries of the assembly constituencies in all the States would be readjusted such that each assembly constituency fell as far as practicable wholly within the single district. While framing the boundaries of assembly constituencies, the Commission shall attempt to keep the variation in population within a band of 10% of the average population of the constituencies in the State. In cases where this was not possible, the Commission would place on record the reasons for making a departure from the adopted norm. The State Governments have already been requested not to create or alter the boundaries of existing administrative and developmental units in their respective States, including districts, sub-divisions, tehsils, development blocks, revenue inspector circles, etc., till the process of Delimitation Commission for the State has been completed.

It was hoped that the Delimitation Commission would be able to complete the task of all States within the Calendar year 2003. The delimitation work of the States expected to go to the poll in November/December 2003, i.e., Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Mizoram and Rajasthan would be taken up on priority basis. The Commission expressed confidence that with the active and helpful cooperation of the all its members it would complete its task expeditiously.

(C.R. BRAHMAM)
SECRETARY