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#### **ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

#### **DIRECTION**

**No.576/3/2015/SDR the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015.** Whereas, under Rules 22, 30 and 49B read with Rule 70 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit of the EVM, ordinary ballot papers, and postal ballot papers shall contain such particulars as the Election Commission may specify; and

1. Whereas, in terms of above mentioned Rules, the Commission has specified the particulars to be printed on the ballot paper to be displayed on the balloting unit and the postal ballot paper, and on ballot papers for elections from Council Constituencies and at elections by Assembly members; and

2. Whereas, the Commission has noted that there are many cases where candidates with same or similar names contest from the same Constituency, and although appropriate suffixes are added to the names of candidates in the event of two or more candidates having same name, the Commission considers that additional measures are required for removing confusion in the minds of electors at the time of voting, and further, the Commission considers that photographs of candidates on ballot paper will facilitate the electors in casting their votes and also the candidates in their campaign :

3. Now, therefore, after having considered all aspects of the matter, the Commission, in partial modification of its existing directions under Rule 22, Rule 30 and Rule 49B read with Rule 70 of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, issued from time to time, hereby specifies that for all elections to be held from 1st May 2015 onwards, the postal ballot papers, the ordinary ballot papers and the ballot papers to be displayed on the balloting unit of EVM shall, in addition to the particulars as per the existing directions, also contain the photograph of the candidates printed thereon. The photograph of the candidates shall be printed in the panel for the name of the candidates and shall appear to the right side of the name in between the name and symbol of the candidate or the column for marking vote/preference, as the case may be. The specification for the photograph shall be as follows :-

- (a) The candidates are required to submit their recent photograph (taken during the preceding period of 3 months before the date of notification.)
  - (ii) The photograph should be of stamp size 2 cm. X 2.5 cm. (2 cm. in breadth and 2.5 cm. in height) in white/off white background, with full face view directly facing the camera, neutral facial expression with eyes open. The photo may be in colour or black and white as may be convenient for the candidate.
  - (iii) Photograph should be in normal clothing. Photograph in uniform is not permitted. Caps/hats should be avoided. Dark glasses also are to be avoided.
4. The above direction shall apply in relation to all elections to the House of the People, Council of States, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council to be held hereafter.

**By Order**

**Sd/-**  
**Secretary,**  
(Anuj Jaipuria)