

ELECTION
of
CHAIRPERSON
of
BLOCK DEVELOPMENT
COUNCILS
2019

IN
JAMMU & KASHMIR

PRESS NOTE
29-09-2019

PRESS NOTE

PANCHAYAT ELECTION:-

The Panchayat Election were held in the State in the year 2018 in nine phases from 17th November 2018 to 11th December 2018. The election process was completed by 17th December, 2018. A total of 23629 Panches and 3652 Sarpanches were returned by the respective Returning Officers.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS:-

Election of Chairperson of Block Development Councils shall be held on Party lines.

For the conduct of election of Chairperson of the Block Development Councils, one Block is taken as one constituency and all the elected Panches and Sarpanches of the Halqa Panchayats falling within the block constitute the Electoral College for that block.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj issued SRO 522 dated 03-09-2019 Notifying the Block Development Councils along with their constituent panchayat halqas. Out of the 316 blocks in the State there are two blocks where there are no elected panches or Sarpanches and thus there shall be no election there. There are 4 blocks where no women Panch/Sarpanch is available which are reserved for women as per the reservation notification issued by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

ELECTORAL ROLLS:-

Photo Electoral rolls have been prepared by following the due process of appointing Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers for all Blocks. The process started on 14th of September and culminated on 23rd of September with the publication of Final Electoral Roll for each Block. There is one single electoral roll for one block. Copies of Electoral Rolls are available at the Block headquarters vide their No.02-DRDK of 2019 dated 24/07/2019 and No. 05 of 2019 dated 04/09/2019.

RESERVATION OF CONSTITUENCIES:-

Notification with regard to reservation of Sarpanch/Panch Constituencies for Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and Women as per provision of the Act and Rules governing Panchayat Elections have been issued by the competent authority i.e., Directors of Rural Development Department, J&K. Details are as under:

ST Open	48
ST WOMEN	21
SC Open	18
SC WOMEN	7
WOMEN	78
TOTAL	172

POLLING STATIONS

There shall be one polling station for one Block Development Council. Accordingly, 310 polling stations have been setup in the State, one in each block where elections are being notified.

DETAILED STATISTICS:-

The district wise detailed statistics regarding number of electors based on the Final Electoral Roll, published on 23rd September 2019 in each Block is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of Blocks	No of Male Electors	No of Female Electors	Total Electors (as per Final Roll)
1.	Kupwara	24	1949	834	2783
2.	Baramulla	26	1035	415	1450
3.	Bandipora	12	423	161	584
4.	Ganderbal	7	274	100	374
5.	Srinagar	4	34	9	43
6.	Budgam	17	468	182	650
7.	Pulwama	11	107	25	132
8.	Shopian	9	61	21	82
9.	Kulgam	11	113	55	168
10.	Anantnag	16	579	184	763
11.	Leh	16	496	248	744
12.	Kargil	15	577	264	841
13.	Kishtwar	13	690	326	1016
14.	Doda	17	1319	581	1900
15.	Ramban	11	796	354	1150
16.	Reasi	12	919	420	1339
17.	Udhampur	17	1399	673	2072
18.	Kathua	19	1484	702	2186
19.	Samba	9	593	300	893
20.	Jammu	20	1805	898	2703
21.	Rajouri	19	1823	864	2687
22.	Poonch	11	1372	697	2069
	Total	316	18316	8313	26629

ELECTORS PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS (EPIC)/ALTERNATE DOCUMENTS:-

The Election Authority has decided that compulsory identification of voters will be made in these Elections. Electors who have got their EPIC shall be identified through EPIC. However the Election Authority has also notified a list of alternative documents which can also be used for the purpose of identification, by the electors who are yet to be provided EPICs. These includes Passport, Driving Licence, Bank /Post office passbooks with photographs, Income Tax Identity (PAN) Card, Aadhaar Card, Pension documents such as ex-servicemen's pension payment order, Ex-Servicemen's widow/Dependent certificates, Old Age pension order and Widow Pension order with photographs

BALLOT BOXES

Ballot boxes would be used during the elections of the Chairperson of the Block Development Councils as the election shall be held through secret ballot. Sufficient number of ballot boxes have been made available to the District Panchayat Election Officers for smooth conduct of these elections.

OBSERVERS

General Observer shall be deployed to ensure free and fair Elections. The observer will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process. Their names, addresses within the district and their telephone numbers will be publicized.

ELECTION EXPENDITURE MONITORING

Comprehensive instructions for the purpose of effective monitoring of the election expenditure of the candidates have been issued. For greater transparency and for ease of monitoring of election expenses, Candidates would be required to open a separate bank account and incur their election expenses from that very account. Control Room and complaint monitoring centers at the District level shall be operative during the entire election process. All the candidates have to ensure that they maintain day-to-day expenditure record in the prescribed register, which will be supplied to the contesting candidate in the form of 'Expenditure Register', from the date of nomination to the date of declaration of result. The Election Authority has fixed the limits of expenditure to be incurred by the Contesting Candidate as Rs 200000/-. General Observers shall function as Expenditure Observer as well.

VIDEOGRAPHY

All critical event will be videographed. District Panchayat Election Officers (Deputy Commissioners) will arrange sufficient numbers of video and digital camera teams for the purpose. The events for videography will include filing of nomination, scrutiny thereof and allotment of

symbols, storage and distribution of Ballot Boxes, important public meetings, processions etc., during campaign, process of dispatching of postal ballot papers, polling process and counting of votes.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT:-

With the announcement of this Schedule for the conduct of election of the Chairperson of the Block Development Councils, through this Press Note, provision of the Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect. All the provisions of the Model Code will apply to all the Panchayat Halqas (Rural Areas) and will be applicable to all the candidates, political parties and the State/Central Government.

SCHEDULE:-

In terms of Rule 102-A of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Government in Rural Development Department J&K has issued the Notification calling upon all the Panches and Sarpanches to elect Chairpersons of the Block Development Councils vide its SRO No 540 dated 20th September, 2019.

Election Authority, J&K has prepared the Schedule for holding of these elections, after taking into consideration of all relevant aspects. The election shall be held in one single phase across the State. Important dates are as under:-

A. IMPORTANT DATES:

Date of issue of Gazette Notification	01-10-2019
Last date of filing Nomination	09-10-2019
Date of Scrutiny of Nominations	10-10-2019
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	11-10-2019
Date of Poll wherever necessary	24-10-2019
Counting of Votes	24-10-2019

B. POLLING HOURS SHALL BE 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

C. COUNTING OF VOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The counting of votes shall be taken up ON THE DAY OF POLL from 3:00 PM onwards unless notified otherwise, followed by announcement of results.

D. Date before which the Elections shall be completed: 05-11-2019
