



For Favour of Publicity

1st August, 2008

**Statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister & BJP leader and
Shri Gopal Shetty, MLA & BJP President in a press conference held in
Mumbai on 1st August, 2008**

Publication of new assembly voters' rolls delayed

Mumbai, Friday: "In spite of the announcement by the Election Commission of India that the electoral rolls as per newly delimited assembly constituencies would be published on 31st July 2008, the time – table has not been maintained; it will be delayed further. Moreover though the Election Commission had assured that the list of 3 lakh 80 thousand duplicate voters will be scrutinized by field visits, it has also not been done. This is a very serious issue in view of ensuing Lok Sabha elections," stated Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister & BJP leader and Shri Gopal Shetty, MLA & BJP-Mumbai President. They were addressing a joint press conference today in Mumbai.

Giving further details Shri Ram Naik & Shri Gopal Shetty said, "Utter confusion had prevailed during the last Lok Sabha elections in 2004. While names of thousands of voters were missing, many could not locate their polling stations. In order to avoid repetition and also to ensure that the voters' lists are accurate, BJP North Mumbai conducted an exercise. Names of voters in three assembly segments of North Mumbai Lok Sabha constituency viz- Borivli, Kandivli and Malad were compared with 34 assembly segments of Mumbai and 6 assembly segments of Thane Lok Sabha constituency, thus making a total of 40 assembly segments. The astonishing result was that there were 3,80,461 duplicate names, i.e. 21 % in 18,02,877 voters. We submitted 10,671 sheets of papers containing these names on 29th April and 31st May 2008 to Shri Debashish Chakrabarty, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State and requested him to scrutinize the lists."

"Thereafter we gave all these details to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi. BJP delegation discussed the issue in person with Shri N Gopalswami, Chief Election Commissioner and Dr S Y Qureshi, Election Commissioner in New Delhi on 10th June 2008. At the end of the discussion, we were assured that the electoral rolls as per newly delimited constituencies will be published on 31st July, 2008 and there will be field verification in respect of duplicate voters", added Shri Naik & Shri Shetty.

Shri Naik & Shri Shetty along with BJP delegation met Shri Vishwas Patil, Collector, Mumbai Suburban District & Electoral Registration Officer on Wednesday 30th July to enquire when the new voters' rolls would be available and also to know the status of verification of duplicate voters. "We were told that the voters' lists would not be ready on 31st July, they will be further delayed. Moreover, duplicate voters lists submitted to the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer were not received by the Collector for verification. We were shocked at this red-tape in such a sensitive issue. We have taken up the matter promptly to the Election Commission of India and requested them for early release of accurate voters' lists and also to complete field verification of duplicate names", stated Shri Naik & Shri Shetty at the end.

Other members of the BJP delegation were S/Shri Jaiprakash Thakur, Vice-President Mumbai, Sumant Ghaisas, President, Mumbai North-West District, Adv J P Mishra & Jagdish Patel, both General Secretaries and Vinod Shelar, Secretary, North – Mumbai District.


(Office Secretary)