

Election Commission initiates process of deleting 2.57 lakh Duplicate Voters.

Mumbai, Saturday : In view of the complaint filed by Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister, Shri Debashish Chakravarti, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State has confirmed enrolment of 2,57,193 duplicate voters. This information has been given in a press statement released by Shri Ram Naik today in Mumbai.

Giving further details Shri Ram Naik said, "While analysing the results of 2004 Lok Sabha general elections, it was noticed that bogus voting was done with the help of duplicate voters. We found that there were 3,57,520 duplicate voters, in the earlier Malad, Kandivli and Borivli assembly constituencies. The Chief Election Commissioner of India was given the details of the duplicate voters' lists in April, 2008. On his advice, I had given the compilation of duplicate voters' lists to Shri Debashish Chakravarti, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State. I have been following up with the State Election Office for the last several months so that the sanctity of voters' rolls is maintained".

While publishing the electoral rolls on 22nd January, 2009, the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State confirmed that his office has found 2,57,193 duplicate voters and they are being served individual notices as to why their names should not be deleted from the electoral rolls as per provisions of section 17 and 18 of the Representation of People's Act. The duplicate voters have been identified by the election office through computer software application. "The verification process would be completed before 28th February, 2009 by the District Electoral Officers as per orders issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State," added Shri.Ram Naik.

While welcoming the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer, Shri. Ram Naik said, "It would not be desirable to scrutinise the duplicate voters only through computer software application. The verification should also be done through field survey. This alone would ensure the sanctity of electoral rolls which is the crux of the free and fair elections."

(Office Secretary)

Encl: Copy of letter date 21st January,2009