

# Recent Amendments relating to Electoral Rolls

Amendments made in R P Act 1950/1951 vide Ministry of L&J notification dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 will into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The said amendments bring in following important changes into effect.

## (1) Modified Registration Forms

- Ministry of L&J vide its notification, dt. 17/06/2022 notified the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2022 under Section 28 of the R.P. Act, 1950.
- Certain modifications have been made in the registration forms
- Modified Forms will come into force **on 01<sup>st</sup> August, 2022.**
- Major modifications in the registration forms are as follows:

Form	Earlier	Now
<b>Form 6:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Registration of new electors</li> <li>➤ Provision for application for shifting from one constituency to another constituency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Only for the registration of new electors</li> </ul>
<b>Form 6A:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Application for inclusion of name in Electoral Roll by an overseas Indian elector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change in exiting provisions</li> </ul>
<b>Form 7:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Application for objection for Proposed inclusion/deletion of Name in Existing Electoral roll</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It will exist for the same purpose with slight modifications.</li> <li>➤ Now provision for attaching the death certificate has also been made.</li> </ul>
<b>Form 8:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Correction to Particulars Entered in Electoral Roll</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shifting of Residence within or across constituencies.</li> <li>➤ Correction of entries in existing electoral roll</li> <li>➤ Replacement of EPIC, and Marking of Person with Disability.</li> </ul>
<b>Form 8A:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Transposition of Entry in Electoral Roll (in case of Shifting from One Place to Another Place within Same Constituency)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discontinued</li> <li>➤ Provision has been added in modified Form 8.</li> </ul>
<b>Form 001:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Application for issue of Replacement EPIC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discontinued</li> <li>➤ Provision has been added in modified Form 8.</li> </ul>

**Aadhaar number of the electors in the registration forms:**

- (i) In all the modified Forms (except Forms 7, 11, 11A & 11B), a provision has been made for seeking Aadhaar details of electors.
- (ii) A new **Form 6B** has been introduced, for collecting Aadhaar number of existing electors to authenticate the entries in the electoral rolls and thus make it absolutely error free.
- (iii) No substantial change in other Forms apart from seeking Aadhaar details of electors.

\*\*\*\*\*

**(2) Collection of Aadhaar data from the electors on voluntary basis**

**Law Amendment:**

- Amendments in Sec. 23 of the Representation of the People, 1950, vide Min. of L&J notification dt. 30.12.2021 for furnishing Aadhaar number by existing electors and citizens seeking registration in electoral roll.
- Subsequent amendments have also been made in Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960.
- By **01.04.2023** existing electors may intimate their Aadhaar number.
- Submission of Aadhaar number is voluntary and non-submission will not result in denial of registration or deletion of existing entries.

**Objective of the programme:**

- To establish identity of electors and authentication of entries in electoral roll
- To identify if the registration of same person in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

**New Form for seeking Aadhaar number of existing electors**

- A new **Form 6B** has been introduced for submission of Aadhaar number by an existing elector.
- This form will be made available on ECI's website, ERONET, GARUDA, NVSP, VHA etc before 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022.

**How to submit:**

Form 6B can be submitted both in online mode as well as offline mode.

**Online method:** Through NVSP, Voters Helpline App by following two methods-

- i. With Self-authentication: Elector may fill Form 6B online and authenticate Aadhaar using OTP to be received on his/her mobile number registered with UIDAI.

- ii. Without Self-authentication: In case elector does not want to self-authenticate or self-authentication fails, the elector can submit Form 6B with necessary attachments online without authentication.

**Offline Submission:** Booth Level Officer will make house to house visit to collect Form 6B with Aadhaar number from electors in hard copy.

The EROs / AEROs will also collect the aforesaid details through Voter Facilitation Centres, e-Seva centres and Citizen Service Centres authorised by the DEOs. Special camps will also be organized.

**Furnishing of Aadhaar number is purely voluntary-**

- The purpose of obtaining of Aadhaar number is for authentication of electors' entries in electoral roll and extending electoral services to them in future.
- If the elector is not able to furnish Aadhaar Number, he/she has to submit a copy of any of the eleven alternative documents, mentioned in Form 6B.
- No entry in the electoral roll would be deleted on the ground of inability on the part of any existing elector furnish/intimate Aadhaar number.

**Security measures for collecting and handling Aadhaar number-**

- While collecting and handling Aadhaar number of electors, the provision under Section 37 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 shall be ensured. In no circumstances, it should go in public domain. If the elector's information is required to put for public display the Aadhaar details must be removed or masked.
- Collected hard copies shall be kept in safe custody with double lock by EROs.
- Electors' Aadhaar number shall be stored in Licensed Aadhaar Vault hired by ECI in accordance with relevant regulations of UIDAI. In no case, it will be stored in ECI database.

\*\*\*\*\*

**(3) Preparation of electoral rolls with reference to four qualifying dates**

**Amendment:**

Amendments have been made in Section 14(b) of the R.P. Act, 1950, which deals with the qualifying date for determining the eligibility of citizens for registration in electoral rolls, and in RER 1960

### **Changes in the existing process,**

- Now there would be four qualifying dates in a year namely, **1<sup>st</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> October** in place of one qualifying date 1<sup>st</sup> January.
- Earlier, only those who completed the 18 years of age by 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year could get themselves enrolled. After coming four qualifying dates in existence, all who are completing 18 years of age on any of the qualifying date of the year can get themselves enrolled after the relevant qualifying date.
- The **Annual Summary Revision** will be conducted **with reference to 01<sup>st</sup> January** of the year only, as qualifying date.
- However, the prospective applicants, becoming eligible with reference to subsequent qualifying dates of the year i.e., 01<sup>st</sup> April, 01<sup>st</sup> July and 01<sup>st</sup> October can also submit their claims in Form-6, in advance during Annual Summary Revision.
- In other words, the citizens who will become eligible with reference to any of the four qualifying dates have been given a facility to file their advance application for registration, during Annual Summary Revision, as well as after the final publication.
- It is clarified that the forms will be segregated quarter wise with reference to relevant qualifying date and disposed of by the EROs in the concerned subsequent quarters only, preferably in the first month of subsequent quarter.
- **The applicants who couldn't file their advance claims during Annual Summary Revision shall not be denied for filing claims in subsequent quarters.** Procedure of advance claim filing during Annual Summary Revision is an additional facility provided to the young voters.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Important highlights:**

- Electoral Services Forms simplified: Form 6 for new registration, Form 7 for deletion or objection and Form 8 for any change of particulars.

- Number of Electoral Services Forms simplified and reduced: Form 6 for new registration and Form 8 for change of particulars
- Youngsters can now register as elector with simplified Form 6
- Form 8 can now be used for any change in particulars
- Electors can now submit their Aadhar number to Election Commission through new Form 6B
- Electors can voluntarily submit their Aadhar number to Election Commission of India in offline or online mode.
- Aadhar number now can be self-authenticated with ECI voluntarily.
- Aadhar can be submitted from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in online or offline mode using Form 6B
- New applicant can now submit Aadhar along with application in Form 6
- Elector can submit Aadhar along with change of particulars using Form 8
- No need to wait for one year to get enrolled as elector: maximum wait now limited to less than three months
- During Annual Summary Revision, youngster can apply one year in advance to become elector
- Are you 17? Still, you can register to be elector