

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

21

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Election Commission

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 24/7/2020

# LS, Assembly bypolls put off

Deadline for filling these vacancies ranges from July 30 to September 7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

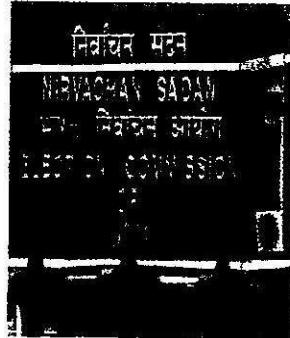
The Election Commission has deferred byelections to a Lok Sabha seat in Bihar and seven Assembly seats in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala "due to some extraordinary circumstances peculiar to these constituencies".

In Bihar, the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha constituency fell vacant on the death of Baidyanath Prasad Mahto.

The Tiruvottiyur and Gudiyattam Assembly seats are vacant in Tamil Nadu; Bulandshahr and Tundla seats in Uttar Pradesh; Sibsagar in Assam; Agar in Madhya Pradesh; and Chavara in Kerala.

The deadline for filing these vacancies ranges from July 30 to September 7.

The vacancies are required to be filled through byelections within six



The Election Commission had taken inputs from the Centre on the polls.

months from the date of occurrence of vacancy, provided that the remainder of the term in relation to the vacancy is one year or more.

The decision to defer the byelections was taken largely in view of the COVID-19 situation and that certain States or districts would witness heavy rain and floods

during the monsoon in July and August. The district administrations would be engaged in flood control and mitigation works.

## Centre's views sought

The EC sought the Union government's view on the issue through a letter dated July 3, addressed to the Union Law Ministry.

Through its response on July 15, the Centre concurred with the commission.

Accordingly, the eight byelections that were due till September 7 were deferred.

"After taking into account all the factors, the commission has decided that under these circumstances, it would not be possible to hold byelections in the various States until the monsoon has receded. It is also hoped that by that time, the

COVID-19 outbreak will also subside and the SOPs, guidelines, procedures and preparation will be in place for conducting elections during the pandemic situation," an official letter said.

The EC clarified that byelections were due for 56 Assembly constituencies (including those referred to earlier), besides one Lok Sabha constituency.

"...the Commission has already taken a decision to hold all by-election as per provisions of Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act. In any case, the deferring of aforementioned eight by-elections is only up to September 7, 2020. This matter of timing etc. of byelections is also slotted for discussion in the Election Commission meeting to be held on July 24, 2020," the EC said in a statement.