

Allotment of Symbols to Contesting Candidates

Allotment of Symbols

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Symbols Order

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 - Allotment of symbols to candidates is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
 - Para 8 - Allotment of symbol to the candidates of recognised (National and State) parties
 - Para 10 - candidates of State Parties of other States
 - Para 10A- candidates of parties which were earlier recognised as a National Party or State Party during the last 6 years
 - Para 10B- relates to allotment of common symbol to unrecognised parties
 - Para 12 -other candidates (Registered un-recognised and independent)
 - Para 13 and 13A- How a candidate becomes a party candidate.

Important points to note

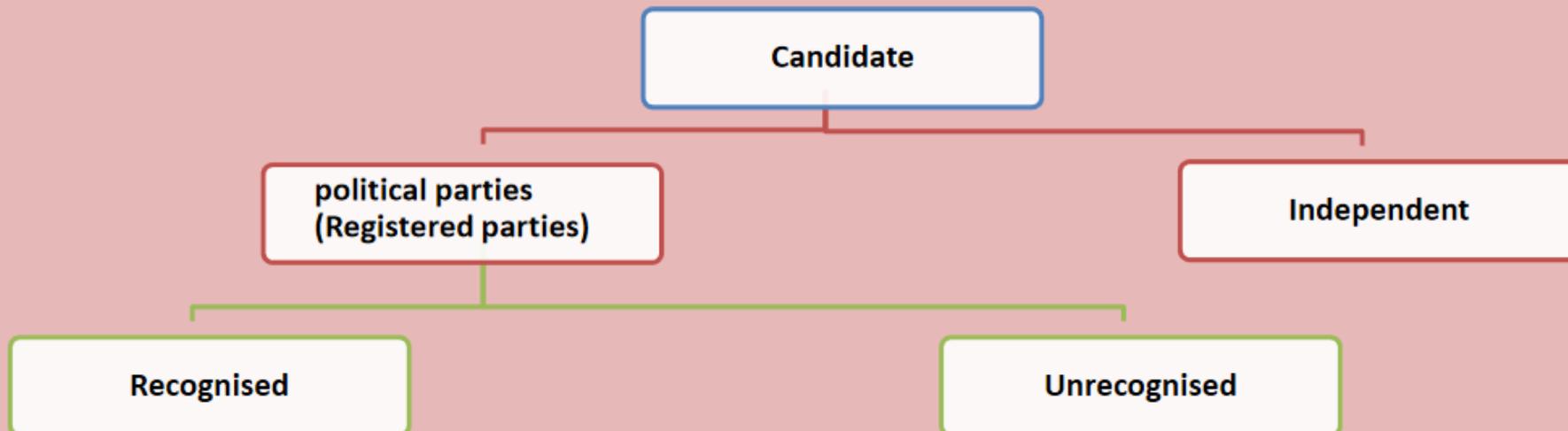
- ▶ □ EC issues notification of political parties and election symbols from time to time.
- ▶ □ Refer to the latest list of political parties and symbols issued by the Commission.
- ▶ □ Do not allot any symbol that is not in the list of symbols allotted/notified by the Commission.
- ▶ □ Design of symbol is approved by Commission. Pl ensure that the currently approved design alone is used. Do not use any other design under any circumstance.

ALLOTMENT OF SYMBOLS

Time and venue

- When the candidate files nomination paper, a notice is to be handed over to the candidate intimating her/him about the date, time and venue for allotment of symbol.
- Allotment of symbols will be made at the specified venue after the period for withdrawal of candidature at the time RO has mentioned in the notice given to candidates.
- Rule 10(4) mandates that each candidate shall be allotted a different symbol subject to directions issued in this behalf by the ECI.

Categories of Candidates



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of recognized parties

- ▶ Candidates set up by recognized national and state political parties to get only the symbols reserved for those parties;
- ▶ The manner of setting up of candidates by political parties already explained hereinabove.
- ▶ ‘Political party’ means a party registered with ECI under section 29A of the RP Act, 1951;
- ▶ ‘Recognized political party’ means a party recognized as national or state party by ECI under Symbols Order, 1968.

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of recognized State parties in other States

- ▶ A State party recognized in one State is a registered-unrecognized party in any other State;
- ▶ If such party sets up candidates in any other State, such candidates can get party's reserved symbol under para 10, if :
 - ▶ Central Office of party applies to ECI for such concession within three days from the date of election notification, giving details of the constituencies concerned; and
 - ▶ ECI has no objection to the grant of above concession.
- ▶ RO shall allot the party's reserved symbol to the abovementioned candidate only if he receives the authorization from ECI, and not otherwise.

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of parties which have lost recognition

- ▶ If a party which has lost recognition, within the last six years, as National / State party and is not recognized anywhere and is now only a registered-unrecognized party, sets up candidates in any State, such candidates can get party's earlier reserved symbol under para 10A, if :
 - ▶ Central Office of party applies to ECI for such concession within three days from the date of election notification, giving details of the constituencies concerned; and
 - ▶ ECI has no objection to the grant of above concession.
- ▶ RO shall allot the party's reserved symbol to the abovementioned candidate only if he receives the authorization from ECI, and not otherwise.

Common symbol for Registered Un-recognized parties

- ▶ Under para -10B of Symbols Order a registered un-recognized party can apply to ECI for allotment of common symbol for its candidates from among free symbols
- ▶ Subject to fulfillment of certain conditions, ECI may allot common symbol to such parties
- ▶ If orders are issued by EC for allotting common symbol to candidates of registered un-recognized party, RO shall allot common symbol as per orders of EC

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties

- ▶ Allotment of symbols to candidates of registered unrecognized political parties is governed by para 12 of Symbols Order;
- ▶ No symbol is reserved for any registered-unrecognized political party;
- ▶ These candidates have to choose symbols from list of free symbols notified by ECI;
- ▶ Every such candidate can give three options of free symbols, in order of preference;
- ▶ Such preferences indicated in his first nomination paper are to be taken into account, even if that nomination paper is rejected;

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties

- ▶ If such candidate has given option for a particular free symbol as his first preference, he shall be allotted that symbol to the exclusion of all independent candidates;
- ▶ If candidates of more than one un-recognized party have given their first preference for the same free symbol, RO shall decide by lot which of those candidates should be given that free symbol;

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties

- ▶ However, if any of those candidates is, or was, immediately before the election, a sitting MP/MLA, he shall be allotted that symbol without draw of lots;
- ▶ If a candidate does not get his first preference symbol because of draw of lots, his second preference for a symbol shall not be treated now as his first preference, while considering the preferences of other candidates;

Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties

- ▶ If a candidate does not get any of the symbols as per his preferences, he shall be allotted a symbol at the end of the allotment process (including the allotment of symbols to the independent candidates) from out of the remaining free symbols available for allotment with the RO.

Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates

- ▶ Allotment of symbols to independent candidates is also governed by para 12 of Symbols Order;
- ▶ These candidates have to choose symbols from list of free symbols notified by ECI;
- ▶ Every such candidate can give three options of free symbols, in order of preference;
- ▶ Such preferences indicated in his first nomination paper are to be taken into account, even if that nomination paper is rejected;

Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates

- ▶ If such candidate has given option for a particular free symbol as his first preference and no candidate of a registered un-recognized party has opted for that symbol as his first preference, he shall be allotted that symbol to the exclusion of all other candidates;
- ▶ If more than one independent candidates have given their first preference for the same free symbol, RO shall decide by lot which of those candidates should be given that free symbol;

Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates

- ▶ However, if any of those candidates is, or was, immediately before the election, a sitting MP/MLA, he shall be allotted that symbol without draw of lots, provided that he contested the earlier election on that very symbol;
- ▶ If a candidate does not get his first preference symbol because of draw of lots, his second preference for a symbol shall not be treated now as his first preference, while considering the preferences of other candidates;

Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates

- ▶ If a candidate does not get any of the symbols as per his preferences, he shall be allotted a symbol at the end of the allotment process (including the allotment of symbols to the independent candidates) from out of the remaining free symbols available for allotment with the RO.

Thanks !

Criteria for a Recognized Political Party

- ▶ A registered party is recognised as a National Party only if it fulfils any one of the following three conditions:
- ▶ The party wins 2 per cent of the seats in the Lok Sabha (as of 2014, 11 seats) from at least 3 different States; or
- ▶ At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States and in addition it wins 4 Lok Sabha seats from any state or states; or
- ▶ A party gets recognition as State Party in four or more States.

Criteria for a State Recognized Party

Secure at least 6% of the valid votes & win at least 2 seats in an Assembly General Election

Secure at least 6% of the valid votes & win at least 1 seat in a Lok Sabha General Election

Win at least 3% of the seats or at least 3 seats , whichever is more, in an Assembly General Election

Win at least 1 out of every 25 seats from a state in a Lok Sabha General Election

Secure at least 8% of the total valid votes in an Assembly or a Lok Sabha General Election