

Legislative Assembly General Election 2024

Regarding granting leave to voters in the Civil
Legislative Assembly constituency to vote

Government of Maharashtra
Department of Industries, Energy, Labor and Mines,
Government Circular No. Visani-2024/P.No.97/Industry-6,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-32

Date: 24 October, 2024.

- Ref:** 1. **Election Commission of India Press Release No. ECI/PN/149/2024, dated 15th October 2024**
2. **Election Commission of India's letter No. 78/ EPS/2024, dated 16 October, 2024.**

Government Circular

The government has adopted a democratic system and it is mandatory for every registered citizen above 18 years to vote in each election. In light of this, under Section 135(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, leave is generally granted to voters to exercise their voting rights or suitable arrangements are made during working hours. However, in recent elections, it has been observed that institutions/establishments do not grant adequate leave. This results in many voters being unable to cast their votes, which is extremely detrimental to democracy.

1. The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Legislative Assembly General Election 2024 in Maharashtra through its letter dated 15 October, 2024. The voting for this election will take place on 20 November, 2024.
2. As per the directives issued by the Election Commission of India, the Legislative Assembly General Election will be conducted in the Civil Legislative Assembly constituency of the State. To ensure that civil voters can exercise their voting rights properly, the following orders are being issued under Section 135(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:
 - I. Any individual eligible to vote in the upcoming election, whether in any establishment, industry, or any other organization, will be granted leave to vote. This leave will apply to civil industry groups, corporations, companies, institutions, industrial enterprises and other establishments coming under the purview of the Department of Industries.
 - II. No deductions will be made from the salary of any individual granted leave under sub-clause (I) for this reason, and if such an individual is generally not paid for that day due to being on leave, they will be entitled to receive the salary they would have earned had they not taken leave on that day.

III. If any employer violates the provisions of sub-section (I) or sub-section (II), such employers shall be liable to action as per rule of the Election Commission.

IV. This provision will not apply to any voter whose absence may cause significant damage in relation to the employment they are engaged in.

V. In case of adverse circumstances, if it is not possible to grant full leave to workers, contractors, employees, etc., a minimum of two hours of leave can be granted to workers involved in the voting process to exercise their right to vote. In this regard, it will be necessary to obtain prior permission from the relevant authorities and the relevant forest commission contractor. In any situation, it is essential for establishments to ensure that voters are granted at least two hours of leave for voting.

VI. As mentioned above, the establishments of the industrial sector, including public corporations, industrial groups, companies, and institutions, must ensure strict compliance with the above instructions. If complaints arise regarding the inability to vote due to the lack of appropriate leave or time received from voters, appropriate action will be taken against them.

3. This notification is issued by the Election Commission of India under serial number ECI/PN/149/2024, dated October 15, 2024, in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India under serial number 78/ EPS/2024, dated October 16, 2024.
4. This government notification is available on the Maharashtra Government's website www.maharashtra.gov.in, with the reference number 202410241528005510. This notification is being communicated digitally.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

(SHAMKANT SONAWANE)
Karyassan Officer, Government of Maharashtra.

Copy forwarded with a request to bring the above circular to the attention of all concerned establishments.

1. State Election Commission, State of Maharashtra, New Administrative Building, Opposite Mantralaya Building, Mumbai-32
2. Principal Secretary and Chief Electoral Officer, Mumbai.
3. Development Commissioner, Directorate of Industries, New Administrative Building, Opposite Mantralaya Building, Mumbai.
4. Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, Mumbai. 5.
5. Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra State and Khadi and Village Industries Board, Mumbai.
6. Managing Director, Maharashtra State Small Enterprise Development Corporation Marya, Mumbai.
7. Managing Director, Maharashtra State Financial Corporation, Mumbai.
8. Director, Directorate of Government Printing Stationery and Publications, Mumbai. 9.
9. Managing Director, Sicom Ltd. Building No.4, Solitaire Corporate Park, Guru Hargovindji

- Road, Chakala, Andheri, (East), Mumbai.
10. Industry groups FICCI, MCCA, CMIA.
 11. All Collectors, Maharashtra State.
 12. All General Managers, District Industries Centre, Maharashtra State.
 13. Forwarded to Director General, Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, Ministry, Mumbai with request for wide publicity.
 14. All the establishments in industry sector.
 15. Select File (Industry-6).