

**OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER
INDIA ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE
87-88, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI -110003**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES WITH
RETURNING OFFICER ON 26-11-2018**

Scheduled meeting of contesting candidates with the undersigned was held on the 26.11.2018 at 4.30 p.m, in the conference hall of the Centre. A total of 30 candidates, out of 38 in all, participated. Issues raised and suggestions thereon are as under:-

1. Mr. Ejaz Maqbool raised the issue of dead voters and wanted that postal ballot should not be sent to their address as this was very likely to be misused. This was supported by Mr Arif Mohd. Khan, Mr Jasim Mohammad, Mr Yamin Qureshi, Mr Qamar Ahmed, Ch. Ziaul Islam and many others. Mr Maqbool suggested that names of dead include many prominent persons and these can be deleted by searching at Google Net. Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan did not agree with the said idea, including Mr S. M. Khan. Mr S. M. Khan suggested that request for deletion of names must come from the family members only. **The consensus was that election officials must contact other members of IICC in the city/locality to know about the status of such voters and try to get the contact numbers of family members of dead voters so that the status could be verified.**

So far information regarding 32 such cases have been gathered and effort was made to contact them. Most of the telephones provided are not in service. In some cases family members are reluctant to admit death for fear of loss of membership. So far only 4 deaths have been confirmed by family members / neighbour. etc.

Alternatively, we can send an attestation form with all such envelops in these cases to be signed by the voter, to be returned with marked ballot . We can match the signature from our record before commencement of counting. Some identification mark will be made in such envelops to be segregated at the time of counting.

2. Mr. Maqbool requested that **postal ballot papers for voters residing outside, particularly, residing outside India should be completed by 30.11.2018**, though Mr. Yamin Qureshi's view was just against the suggestion. It was stated by R.O. that already it was decided to act on the same time line so it was assured that views of Mr. Maqbool is accepted and will be implemented.
3. Mr. Shaikh Mohammad Shoyeb and Mr. Maqbool made another request that election staff should be outsourced. **It was clarified that poll- day and counting -staff will outsourced and only junior staff is being used for deposit of cash, verification of record etc. and they have no access to the process of decision making.**
4. A suggestion was made by Mr Arif Mohammad Khan that ballot papers sent to the voters to a city should be dispatched from the same city and failing which ballot papers should be rejected and the ballot papers received in bulk should be rejected.

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This was opposed by Mr S. M. Khan on the ground that many members are generally not static to a particular city and they may drop the ballot paper while on tour or journey so the voters may be allowed to drop ballot paper from anywhere in India.

The undersigned raised the issue of procedural difficulty of checking the city of dispatch and tallying with the city of residence since without opening the ballot, name of sender can't be ascertained and in that case only residential address can be traced. Also on a number of occasions stamp of post- office is not legible. This could create unnecessary hardship for counting staff. **As such the suggestion can't be implemented. However, the suggestion that bulk ballot papers (received more than one in one envelop), will be rejected, was agreed to by all the present candidates and was accepted by undersigned.**

- 5. A suggestion was made that list of returned ballots should be updated on a daily basis on the website and the same was agreed.**
- 6. Mr Naresh Gupta suggested that contesting candidates should be informed of latest news by SMS. The undersigned told that this is already being done.**
- 7. Mr. Shaikh Mohammad Shoyeb suggested that since the website of the centre is displaying a lot of information, latest ones should be distinguished by showing some marking like "New" or "pooping up" etc. This was also accepted.**
- 8. Mr. Jasim Mohammad suggested that contesting candidates residing outside Delhi may be provided with facility of staying in the centre during the election period. This was not agreed to by other members and the R.O.**
- 9. Mr. Yamin Qureshi suggested that officially, a brief history of candidates may be included in the website of the centre. This was not agreed to being difficult to implement and also because the onus of campaigning should be left to the contesting candidates.**
- 10. A request was made that functioning of the "Noble Education Society" may be stopped during the election period, from the premises of the Centre. Later, it was ascertained from the office and was informed that the above is already being observed and will continue to be so till the elections are over.**
- 11. A question was raised about availability of rooms in the premises of the restaurant in the Centre. It was mentioned that the manager of the restaurant did not entertain request of a candidate as it was booked permanently in the name of an executive.**

The undersigned called the manager of the restaurant in the election office and directed him to make it sure that even if it is a private organization, it can't be allowed to be monopolized by any individual, if at all it is being done. The undersigned directed that in future no one should be denied services if it is

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available. In case it is not available, and if required, entry in the register to the effect of prior booking etc. should be shown to the member.

12. Model Code of Conduct to be observed by the members and the contesting candidates and their supporters is also enclosed for perusal and consent.

This is being put up for information of the contesting candidates. They may submit their views, if any, by 05.00 P.M of 29.11.2018.

Sd\:-
(Tapas Kumar Bhattacharya)
Returning Officer