

Nomination filing rules announced

The Election Commission on Tuesday announced the procedures for filing nomination papers for the forthcoming elections to the Parliament, reports BSS.

A Press release of the Election Commission says: According to the programme announced by the Election Commission for the ensuing elections to Parliament, the date for filing of nomination papers of candidates is December 27, 1978. The nomination papers will have to be filed with the Returning Officers. It may be mentioned here that 78 Returning Officers have been appointed from amongst Sub-Divisional Officers and Additional Deputy Commissioners for the conduct of elections. The time for filing nomination paper is between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the December 27, 1978 (Wednesday). The Returning Officers will receive the nomination papers in their respective offices. Printed nomination paper forms are available with the Returning Officers which will be supplied free of cost to the intending candidates on request. In case printed forms are exhausted or not available at any place the intending candidates may submit typed or hand-written nomination papers in the prescribed form which will be accepted.

The legal requirements and procedure for filing nomination are clarified as under for the information and guidance of all concerned.

According to Article 66 (1) of

the Constitution, a person is qualified to be elected as and to be a member of Parliament, if—

(a) he is a citizen of Bangladesh; and

(b) he has attained the age of twenty five years.

Article 68 (2) of the Constitution provides that a person shall be disqualified for election as or for being a member of Parliament who—

(a) is declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind;

(b) is an undischarged insolvent;

(c) acquires the citizenship of, or affirms or acknowledges allegiance to, a foreign state;

(d) has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release.

In addition to the above, the proviso to Article 12 (1) of the Representation of the People Order, 1972 provides that a person shall be disqualified for election as or for being a member of Parliament, if he—

(a) is a person holding any office of profit in the service

of the Republic or of a statutory public authority;

(b) whether by himself or by any person or body of persons in trust for him or for his benefit or on his account or as a member of a Hindu undivided family has any share or interest in a contract not being a contract between a co-operative society and Government, for the supply of goods to, or for the execution of any contract or the performance of any services undertaken by, Government.

Explanation I—A person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit in the service of the Republic by reason only that he is a Prime Minister, Minister, Minister of State or Deputy Minister.

Explanation II—The expression "statutory public authority" has the same meaning as in article 152 (1) of the Constitution, but does not include a Union Parishad, Thana Parishad, Zilla Parishad, Pourashava or Municipal Corporation.

Explanation III—The disqualification under clause (b) of the proviso shall not apply to a person—

(i) where the share or interest in the contract devolves on him by inheritance or succession or as a legatee.

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tee, executive or administrator until the expiration of six months after it has so devolved on him or such longer period as the President may, in any particular case, allow; or

(ii) where the contract has been entered into by or on behalf of a public company as defined in the Companies Act 1913 (VII of 1913), of which he is a shareholder but is neither a director holding an office of profit under the company nor a managing agent; or

(iii) where he is a member of a Hindu undivided family and the contract has been entered into by any other member of that family in the course of carrying on a separate business in which he has no share or interest.

Any vote of a constituency may propose or second the name of any duly qualified person to be a member for that constituency. That means, the proposer and the seconder must be registered voters of the constituency to which the nomination relates. A person can subscribe either as a proposer or seconder to only one nomination paper. If any person subscribes to more than one nomination paper all such nomination papers except the one received first by the Returning Officer shall be void. A person may, however, be nominated in the same constituency by more than one nomination paper.

Only a candidate himself or his proposer or seconder and no other person can file a nomination paper.

As permissible under article 71 of the Constitution, there is no objection for a person from being at the same time a candidate for two or more constituencies.

A sum of Taka 2,000 is required to be deposited in respect of each candidate. The money may be deposited in cash by the candidate or by any person on his behalf at the time of the delivery of nomination paper and the Returning Officer shall issue a receipt to the person making the deposit.

The amount may also be deposited at any bank or at a Government Treasury or Sub-Treasury under the head "Deposit and Advances-Part II Deposits not bearing interest-Civil Deposits-Deposits in connection with election".

Not more than one deposit is required in the case of a person who has been nominated as a candidate by more than one nomination paper.

Population in India may stabilise at 865m

NEW DELHI, Dec. 10.—India's population can be stabilised at 865 million in the year 2001 A.D. according to a computer study report, PTI.

The study further revealed that raising the marriage age will have only a marginal effect in reducing population and a more equitable distribution of income among people would actually increase the population instead of decreasing it.