



Proceedings of the Administrator, Pachaiyappa's Trust, Chennai-30
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Jagadeesan, Judge (Retd.)
High Court of Madras
Administrator

Rc.No. A3 / 2451 / 2023

Date: 05.07.2023

Since in my proceedings dated 04.07.2023, I complied with the 1st direction of order of the Division Bench, dated 28.04.2023, now, I have to proceed with the process of election of the members for the Trust Board. It is admitted that the last election was held more than 5 years ago that too only to fill up certain vacancies. The AUT insist that the election must be held on the basis of the voters list finalised by my predecessor in the year 2018. There is a demand for the renewal of the voters list on the ground that some of names of the voters had been left out and in fact they demand an enquiry as to the manipulation of voters list. Some demand the renewal of the voters list on the ground of lapse of time.

I carefully considered both the aspect. In view of the recent hike in the last year of the property tax by Corporation & Municipalities there is possibility of many voters qualify themselves, even though the clause 11(A) of 2008 scheme is not amended. Moreover, by lapse of more than 5 years from the last election, there is every possibility that many of the graduates would have been qualified themselves by completion of 10 years. Apart from this there are changes in the College Council Members who are eligible to vote and similarly there will be changes in the Senate Members due to the expiry of their term of office or otherwise. Due to the intervention of Corona in 2019 & 2020 there is another possibility of the number of voters dwindle down. In my humble opinion, these eligible voters can not be deprived of their legal and valuable right to vote. The increase in the volume of voters will naturally evolve a change in the administration also. In these circumstances, it will be highly unjustifiable to hold the election without updating the electoral roll. Hence I decided to update the voters list afresh and issue a paper publication calling for the renewal of the voters list.

(2) I am also understand from the oral representation of the voters that it is usual practise of the Trust that the renewal / update of the voters list is undertaken immediately preceding the election. There is no practise of registering the voters as soon as they attained their eligibility. This also a compelling reason to update the voters list preceding the ensuing election. As soon as the renewal / updating of voters list is over, election process will start.

JUSTICE S.JAGADEESAN
Administrator