

Friday, November 3, 2006, Chandigarh, India

Special Braille machine for blind voters

The Braille voting machines would be installed for use by blind and physically challenged near for blind institutes in Punjab in the Assembly elections.

Stating this to reporters at Circuit House here today Mr Naveen Chawla, Election Commissioner of India, announced that work to complete voters' lists and voter Identity cards had been going on smoothly in the state. He said 72 per cent of the work had been finished and efforts were on to complete it before the election was announced.



Answering queries on the tentative election dates in the four states, going to the polls in next few months Mr Chawla said that Election Commission (EC) would announce dates only after completing the process of voters' list in the states. The Punjab Assembly completes its five-year term in February next year. He said the EC had deleted names of more than two lakh voters who either had died or migrated from the state as verification of this crucial work was on.

Mr Chawla said the election officers were facing difficulty in the two industrial towns of Punjab - Jalandhar and Ludhiana - due to the presence of migrant labour. He said efforts were on to prepare accurate voters list by getting their names struck off from the voters' list in their respective native places. He said the Election Commission was making serious attempts to prepare foolproof list before the commencement of polls in Punjab.

Commenting on plea of the Shiromani Akali Dal, which had demanded central paramilitary forces to supervise the law and order situation in the state, Mr Chawla said that the EC was monitoring the scenario and said a decision would be taken at an appropriate time.