NOTIFICATION

Whereas, in pursuance of Rule 7 of the J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Government had issued a Notification, in consultation with the Election Authority (Chief Electoral Officer, J&K), vide its SRO No.78 dated 14th March, 2011, calling upon the Panchayat Halqas in the State to elect Sarpanches and Panches on the dates to be appointed by Election Authority (Chief Electoral Officer, J&K);

Whereas, in pursuance of Rule 8 of J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Election Authority (Chief Electoral Officer, J&K) had issued a Notification on 25th March, 2011, notifying the dates for the 3rd Phase of Election for Sarpanches and Panches in respect of Blocks Sogam, Boniyar, Ganderbal, Chadoora, Kulgam, Ramnagar, Dudu-Basantgarh, Purmandal, Ghagwal and Satwari, as per the schedule given below:-

a) 25th March, 2011 as date of issue of Gazette Notification,
b) 1st April, 2011 last date for making Nominations,
c) 2nd April, 2011 date of Scrutiny of Nominations,
d) 5th April, 2011 last date for withdrawal of candidate,
e) 21st April, 2011 date of poll/counting wherever, necessary,

Whereas, District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal vide his No.DPEO/GBL/PS/F-117/8032 dated 21-04-2011 has intimated that during the poll day on 21-04-2011, resentment was shown by 70 voters of Panch Constituency No. 3 and 14 voters of Panch Constituency No.4 of GB-9 Nunner Block Ganderbal regarding the non-inclusion of their names in the voter lists published by Electoral Registration Officer/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer and thereby depriving them of their legitimate right to vote;

Whereas, apprehending serious law and order problem, it was decided to stop the polling process for Panch Constituencies 3 and 4 of GB-9 Nunner of Block Ganderbal;

Whereas, it has been reported by District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal that the used as well as unused ballot papers of these Panch Constituencies have been burnt and destroyed in the presence of all the contesting candidates and the entire exercise was videographed;

Whereas, the District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal has further reported that the ballot boxes of the remaining Panch/Sarpanch
Constituencies have been sealed and deposited in the District Treasury, Ganderbal after the completion of the poll;

Whereas, the District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal had ordered an inquiry into whole episode by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, to look into the chain of events leading to the present situation and to suggest follow-up action;

Whereas it has been established by the report of the District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal that the voter lists of Panch Constituency No. 3 & 4 of GB-9 Nunner Ganderbal had not been prepared by the field agencies as per the instructions given by this office;

Whereas, the General Observer appointed by this office for block Ganderbal, Shri Mohmammad Muzaffar Mattu, SE, PDD Ganderbal has also reported vide his letter dated 21-4-2011, that some voters in Nunner Panch Constituency No. 3 and 4 complained of non-appearance of their names in the voter list which upon preliminary investigation established that about 70 voters in Panch Constituency No. 3 and 14 voters in Panch ward 4 were inadvertently not enlisted in the voter list of said wards. This has caused resentment amount the voters and accordingly the District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal has recommended that the elections in these two Panch wards should be countermanded and that fresh polling should be held for these two Panch Constituencies.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 36 of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 read with rule 3 of J&K Panchayat Raj Rules, 1996, the Election Authority (Chief Electoral Officer, J&K) hereby issues directions that fresh polling shall be taken for Panch Constituency No. 3 and 4 of GB-9 Nunner of Block Ganderbal. Repoll will be taken on 25-04-2011 between 08:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and counting of voters will be held on the same day.

(B. R Sharma) IAS
Election Authority
Under Panchayati Raj Act, 1989
(Chief Electoral Officer, J&K)
Jammu

No.5311/CEO/PYT/Notification/2011/5088-95
Dated: 23-04-2011

Copy to the:-
1. Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department, J&K, Jammu for information.
2. Director, Information and Publicity, J&K, Jammu with the request to publish the notification through electronic and print media especially in Kashmir Division.
4. District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal for information and to circulate the above said notification to the concerned Returning Officer.
5. Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for the kind information of Chief Secretary, J&K.