

No doubt sound structure, constitutional status, sufficient Constitutional and legal authority are essential to building up an effective institution, but it is the choice of personnel who finally operate the system that really matters. It is, therefore, essential that the choice of person to be appointed as Chief Election Commissioner shall be made strictly on the basis of merits-caliber, competence, and integrity. Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner as well as other personnel of Commission needs extra care so that democracy can survive in our country.⁹

4.1.1 Powers and functions of Election Commission of India:

The powers and functions of the Election Commission of India are derived from Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, the legislation relating to the elections and the rules and orders issued under the Constitution or under the legislation enacted by the Parliament. The most essential requisite of free and fair elections is that the elections should be conducted by an independent and impartial authority who can act as a guardian of the entire election machinery.¹⁰ The task of conducting free and fair elections has been assigned to the Election Commission of India.

The plenary powers vested in the Election Commission by the Constitution for the conduct of elections are supplemented further by Acts of Parliament namely Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951, the Presidential and Vice- Presidential

⁹ Anjana Kaw Bhagat, *op. cit.*, p.97

¹⁰ N.S.Gehlot (1992).*Elections and Electoral Administration in India*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. p.45

Elections Act, 1952, the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Delhi Administration Act, 1966 and the Rules and Orders made there under.¹¹

Under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution the powers of the Commission are meant to supplement rather than supplant the law in the matter of superintendence, direction and control as provided by Article 324 and therefore, that power does not prevail over the Acts passed by Parliament. In this context the provisions contained in Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 vest the power of notifying the date of commencement of election in the Governor. If the Governor is prepared to notify the date of the election, the recommendatory body which the Election Commission is cannot refuse to recommend the date of the election under any pretext. The plenary powers of the Election Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution are of recommendatory value. The Governor can still issue the notification under Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 if the recommendation of the Election Commission is not in conformity with the political scenario of the State concerned. In such a contingency, if the Governor considers the elections to be imminent, it would be supplanting the provisions of Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the powers of the Election Commission under Article 324 cannot be stretched so far.¹²

¹¹ *ECI 2nd Annual Report on April 1984*, p.2

¹² See details on W.J.M. Mackenzie (1958). *Free Elections*. London. George Allen and Unwin. pp. 13-14

Under Article 174(1) of the Constitution, the Governor is required to summon the House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but 6 months should not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. If the elections are postponed, compliance with the provisions of Article 174(1) of the Constitution of India would become impossible. The Election Commission is under a constitutional duty to conduct the election at the earliest on completion of the term of the Legislative Assembly on dissolution or otherwise. If there is any impediment in conducting free and fair elections it can draw upon all the requisite resources of the Union and the State within its command to ensure free and fair election. Any man-made attempt to obstruct free and fair election is the antithesis to democratic norms.¹³

If and when the Election Commission finds the law and order situation difficult, it can only require a sufficient number of security forces to be deployed, but postponement of elections is hardly a remedy for that. It would be better if a mechanism is devised to settle such disputes which may arise between the Election Commission and the State Government or the Central Government.¹⁴

The superintendence, direction and control of the elections to the Parliament, to the Legislature of every State, to the offices of the President and Vice-President of

¹³ See details on Ramashray Roy (1971). 'Elections, Electorate and Democracy in India' in *Indian Journal of Public Administration* .October-December New Delhi:p.19

¹⁴ T.N. Seshan (1995). *A heart full of Burden*. New Delhi: UBS. p.130

India, have been vested in the Election Commission. According to the Registration of Election Rules, 1960 and the conduct of Election Rules, 1961, the Election Commission of India has performed the following functions to discharge its duties freely and fairly:-

(1) Preparation of electoral rolls: Article 325 of the Constitution lays down that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency, the preparation of electoral rolls based on religion, race, caste or sex is forbidden. The preparation and maintenance of complete and accurate electoral rolls are essential prerequisites for holding elections.¹⁵ Under Article 326 of the Constitution, the electoral rolls must be prepared correctly for all eligible voters irrespective of their religion, race, caste and sex to hold free and fair elections.¹⁶ As per Section 13-D, 15, 27(2) and 27(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral rolls should be prepared for all Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituents.¹⁷ The Election Commission of India has to prepare for identification the up-to-date list of all the persons who are entitled to voting at the poll.¹⁸

¹⁵ Anjana Kaw Bhagat. *op.cit.*, p.38

¹⁶ M.Krishnan Nair(1986). *The Law of Elections*. Trivandrum .The academy of Legal Publications.p.47
¹⁷*Ibid.*,p.47

¹⁸ J.K.Chopra (1989). *Politics of Election Reforms in India*, New Delhi: Mittal Publications. p.23

3 1	Chandigarh	519	335569	282966	10	618545	5	4	9	732	541	1273	619827
3 2	Daman & Diu	134	57123	55441	0	112564	7	6	13	8	2	10	112587
3 3	D & N Haveli	240	111882	95391	0	207273	0	0	0	12	8	20	207293
3 4	NCT of Delhi	11763	7260633	5823767	851	13085251	19	5	24	3371	1739	5110	13090385
3 5	Lakshadweep	43	25410	24538	0	49948	0	0	0	91	10	101	50049
3 6	Puducherry	875	434036	474676	40	908752	62	7	69	328	147	475	909296
	Total	940191	444290630	404951995	30405	849273030	14472	1173	15645	969853	371679	1341532	850630207

Source: Data collected from the personal visit of the ECI. New Delhi on 14.06.2015

(2) **Conduct of Poll:** The function of the Election Commission regarding the conduct of elections begins with the notification of the election and up to the declaration of the result. Under section 30 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission is empowered to issue certain notifications in the official Gazette to fix the last date for making notification, date for the scrutiny of nominations, the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures, the date or dates on which a poll shall be taken and the date before which the election shall be completed and declaration of results.¹⁹ It has the power to issue a code of conduct to be observed by all the political parties and people at the time of the election. The Election Commission has not only the power of holding elections but also to cancel it and order repoll if it is rigged. It is also the responsibility

¹⁹ Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

of the Election Commission to hold bye-election, whenever there is a mid-term vacancy. In this respect, there is an impression that the Election Commission has been accused of a partisan attitude and it has been alleged that it has favored the party in power at the centre.²⁰ By virtue of Sections 58, 58A and 64A of R.P. Act, 1951, a very wide power to make an order for the fresh poll has been vested in the Election Commission. After taking all material circumstances from the Returning Officer, the Election Commission decides for fresh polls on the following grounds: (i) any ballot box used at a polling station or at a place fixed for the poll is unlawfully taken out of the custody of the Presiding Officer or the Returning Officer, or is accidentally or intentionally destroyed or lost, or damaged or tampered with, to such an extent, that the result of the poll at the polling station or place cannot be ascertained, or (ii) any voting machine develops a mechanical failure during the course of the recording of votes, or (iii) any such error or irregularity in procedure as is likely to vitiate the poll is committed at a polling station or at a place fixed for the poll.²¹

(3) Recognition of Political Parties: One of the important functions of Election Commission is to recognize political parties as the All-India or State Political Parties. If in a general election a particular party gets four percent of votes polled in any four States, it is recognized as an All-India Party. If a party gets four percent votes in a

²⁰ N.S. Gehlot (1992). *Elections and Electoral Administration in India*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. pp.47-48

²¹ Raisa Ali (1996). *Representative Democracy and Concept of Free and Fair Elections*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. pp.249-250

States, or a region, it is recognized as a State or Regional Party.²² The Election Commission has to register the political parties in accordance with the Provisions of Section 29A of R.P. Act, 1951. The final decision regarding the registration of political party shall be based on Sub- Section 29A of R.P. Act, 1951. The Election Commission has to act quasi- judicially and has to follow principles of natural justice while registering the political parties.

(4) Allotment of Symbols: Under Rule (5) of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, the Election Commission is to authorized to specify symbols that may be chosen by candidates at elections in parliamentary and assembly constituencies and the restrictions to which their choice shall be subject, by publishing a notification in the Gazette of India and in the Official Gazette of each State. By Clause 5 of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951 and Rules 5 and 10 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 regarding Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968, symbols have been classified as the reserved symbols and free symbol. After giving hearing, it will decide whether the newly formed party should be a National party or a state party to be allotted. The power to issue Symbols Order is comprehended in the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections vested in the Commission.²³

²² N.S.Gehlot. *op.cit.*, p.49

²³ Narendra Chapalgaonkar (1997). *Law of elections*. New Delhi: An AIR publication- All India Reports . p.13

(5) Disqualifying of the Candidate and Voters: Under Section 10 A of the People's Representation Act, 1951, after every general election, each candidate is informed to submit his/her election returns. If the candidate does not file election returns within a prescribed period, the Election Commission has the power to disqualify such candidate. Section 11 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the Election Commission to remove any disqualification list. Under Section 11B of R.P. Act, 1951, the Election Commission also has the power to remove disqualification of voter list.²⁴

(6) Counting of Votes and Declaration of results: The votes polled at each Constituency are counted under the supervision of the Returning Officer by Counting Supervisors and Assistants appointed by him. Under the direction of the Election Commission, the Returning Officer fixes the date, time and place of counting votes. The votes may be counted either at one place for all the Assembly segments of a Parliamentary Constituency or at different places for the various Assembly segments under the supervision of the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO). The final result is collected by the Returning Officer at his headquarters and declared the results on the approval of the Election Commission.²⁵

(7) Advisory Jurisdiction and quasi-judicial functions: Under the Constitution of India, the Election Commission has also advisory jurisdiction in the matters of post-

²⁴ Raisa Ali, *op.cit.*, p.258

²⁵ Rule 51, *Conduct of Elections Rule*, 1961

election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. The cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified and if so, for what period. The opinion of the Commission in all such matters is binding on the President or as the case may be, the Governor to whom such opinion is tendered. The decision of the Election Commission under the provisions of Section 29A (7) of the Act of 1951 is a quasi-judicial one.²⁶

(8) Powers with regard to Electoral Personnel: Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951 empowers the Election Commission to appoint Electoral Personnel and to get the necessary staff for the conduct of elections. Section 13CC of R.P. Act, 1950 provides that the Chief Electoral Officers of the States take Disciplinary action against the Erring Officials. It has also the power to issue instructions on the transfer of officials connected with election work during the period of elections.²⁷

(9) Delimitation of Constituencies: Under section 11 of the Delimitation Act of 1972, the Election Commission is empowered to correct any printing mistake in any of the orders made by the Delimitation Commission.²⁸ The Election Commission maintains delimitation orders up-to-date and makes amendments in the Delimitation of

²⁶ See details on Viplav. *op.cit.*, p.45

²⁷ Section 13CC of Representation of the People Act, 1950

²⁸ Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 1972

Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies.²⁹ Sometimes, the work relating to the delimitation of Constituencies arising as a result of the formation of new States is generally entrusted to the Election Commission.³⁰

(10) Media Policy: The Election Commission has a comprehensive policy for the media. It holds regular briefings for the mass media-print and electronics on a regular basis at close intervals during the election period and on specific occasions as necessary on the other occasions. The representatives of the media are also provided facilities to report on the actual conduct of poll and counting. They are allowed entry into polling stations and counting centre on the basis of authority letters issued by the commission. They include members of both international and national media. It also publishes statistical reports and other documents which are available in the public domain. The Election Commission has in co-operation with the State-owned Media, Doordarshan and All India Radio, taken up a major campaign for awareness of voters.³¹

(11) Executive interference barred: In the performance of its functions, Election Commission is insulated from the Executive interference. It decides the election schedules for the conduct of elections, whether general elections or bye-elections. It also decides on the location polling stations, assignments of voters to the

²⁹ *Section 9 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950*

³⁰ Raisa Ali (1996). *Representative Democracy and Concept of Free and Fair Elections*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. p.267

³¹ *see details on Viplav.op.cit., p.46*

polling stations, the location of counting centre, arrangements to be made in and around polling stations and counting centre and all allied matter.³²

(12) Limits on Poll Expenses: The election expense documents include details of expenses on public meeting and processions, campaigning through electronic and print media, expense on campaign workers, expense on vehicles used and expense on campaigns materials.³³ The Election Commission has always tried to get rid of the growing influence and rude acting like improper using the money during elections and made some suggestions to be followed by the political parties and candidates. The Commission has fixed legal limits on the amount of money which a candidate can spend during the election campaign. The election expenses ceiling for candidates has been revised by the Government of India vide Notification dated 28th February 2014. As per the revised ceilings, the maximum limit of election expenses for a Lok Sabha Constituency is Rs.70.00 lakh per candidate for all States except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim. For these three States, it is Rs.54.00 lakh per candidate. For the Union Territories, the maximum limit is Rs.70 lakh per candidate for National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and Rs.54.00 lakh per candidate for other UTs. For the Assembly Constituencies, the maximum limit is Rs.28.00 lakh per candidate for the bigger States and NCT of Delhi and Rs.20.00 lakh per candidate in the other States and Union Territory of Puducherry. Accordingly, in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha the limit of

³² *Ibid.,p.44*

³³ <https://www.google.com/search/Limits+on+polls+expenses+in+India>. Accessed on 15.02.2016

expenses for Assembly Constituencies is Rs.28.00 lakh per candidate and in Sikkim, it is Rs.20.00 lakh per candidate.³⁴

4.1.2 Limitations on the Powers of the Election Commission:

The Election Commission has the Constitutional responsibility of superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for elections and conduct of elections. This responsibility covers administrative powers, duties and functions depending on the circumstances. The Supreme Court has emphasized that there are certain limitations on the powers of the Election Commission.³⁵ Some limitations laid down on the plenary character of the powers of Election Commission are:-

(1) Statutory Provisions: When Parliament or any State Legislature has made a law relating to or in connection with elections, the Election Commission shall act in conformity with such provisions. It has been held by the Supreme Court that the powers of the Election Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution are subject to any Act passed by the legislature and any rule or orders made there under.³⁶ We have seen in Mohinder Singh Gill vs. Chief Election Commissioner Case that the Supreme Court held that the Commission is bound to act in conformity with the provisions of law. In

³⁴ *The Hindu Daily Newspaper*. New Delhi on 12th May 2014

³⁵ Raisa Ali (1996). *Representative Democracy and Concept of Free and Fair Elections*. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. p.271

³⁶ Raisa Ali.*op.cit.*,p.271

view of the statutory provisions, Mr. K. Ganesan, former Secretary to the Election Commission observed: "It is dangerous to claim any extraordinary and plenary powers under Article 324 to deal with matters already covered in the law even if provisions are found inadequate".³⁷

(2) Rules of Natural Justice: The Election Commission cannot overlook its obligation to preserve and maintain the rule of law, act bona fide and be amendable to the norms of natural justice. The Commission is, therefore, bound to act in accordance with rules of natural justice but the application of the rules of natural justice depends on circumstances and the matter is incapable of generalization.³⁸

(3) Judicial Review: In the case of postponement of elections as we experienced in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir by the Election Commission, the Supreme Court has made it clear that the orders of the Election Commission are subject to judicial review and its powers are not "Unbridles". The judicial powers enjoyed by the Election Commission should depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.³⁹

³⁷ See *The Times of India*, New Delhi. May 6.1993. p.20

³⁸ Raisa Ali. *op.cit.*,pp.272-273

³⁹ Raisa Ali. *op.cit.*,pp.273-274

4.2 Facts about General Elections 1952 – 2014 conducted by the Election

Commission of India:

There have been an increasing number of candidates contesting since the first general elections in 1952 in India. There were 1874 candidates for 489 elective seats in 1952 and the number of candidates has been increased to 2784 candidates in 1971. We have seen that an increase in the number of 4629 candidates in the general election in 1980. There were 6160 candidates and 8668 candidates in the 9th and 10th general elections. In the 11th General Elections, 13952 candidates contested for the 543 seats but the number of candidates had been reduced to 4750 candidates in the 12th general elections because of an increase of security deposit amount in August 1996. The Election Commission set up 6,87,402 polling stations for 5435 candidates in 2004. For the first time, the General Elections were conducted using 10.75 lakh Electronic Voting Machines in the country replacing completely the traditional system of ballot papers and ballot boxes. In 2009 there were 8070 candidates for 543 seats in the Lok Sabha election. In the last general election in 2014, there were 8251 candidates contested for 543 seats in Lok Sabha.⁴⁰

We have seen that number of voters have been increasing from the 1st general elections to the 16th general elections to Lok Sabha. The number of eligible voters went up from 17.3 crore in 1951 to 83.40 crores in 2014. While only 53 political parties contested the election in 1951, 465 political parties contested in 2014. There has been a huge change in the country from the time of the first general election to the Lok Sabha

⁴⁰ Data collected from personal visit of the ECI. New Delhi on 25.08.2016

in 1951 to the 16th general election in 2014. A lot of numbers related to elections have also changed, from voter turn out to polling booths to contesting political parties.⁴¹

During these six decades, the Election Commission has conducted a number of laudable electoral reforms to strengthen democracy and enhance the fairness of elections successfully.

4.3 Changes in the Commission from time to time - Single Member to

Multi - Member Commission:

The Constitution makers left it to the President of India to decide whether the Election Commission should be a single member body or a multi-member body depending upon the exigencies of work in the Commission. Provision has been made for the establishment of Election Commission consisting of more than one Commissioner. But, the Commission has functioned till 1989 as a single member body consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner. The multi-member Commission worked for a brief period of less than three months from October 16, 1989 to January 1, 1990. At that time Mr. R.V.S. Peri Sastri was the Chief Election Commissioner, only a few days before the ninth Lok Sabha, two Additional Election Commissioners, Mr. S.S.Dhanoa and Mr. V.S. Siegal were appointed by the President. But after the election was over, the two additional Commissioners were removed. The multi-member Election Commission was reverted to a single – member Election Commission. On October 1, 1993 the President of India passed an Ordinance and converted, once again, the Election

⁴¹ [https://www.google.com/search/Facts about general elections 1952-2014 in India](https://www.google.com/search/Facts+about+general+elections+1952-2014+in+India). Accessed on 20.07.2016

Commission into a multi-member Election Commission fixing the number of Election Commissioner three including the Chief Election Commissioner. In 1989 one more Commissioner was added. In 1990, the National Front government again made it single member on 1.10.1993. The Provision was made to appoint two more Commissioners.⁴² The Constitution Amendment Act, 1993 made Election Commission to be multi member body. It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

Thus, the Election Commission is now functioning as multi-member Commission comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners from 1st October 1993. The Election Commission has submitted its proposals to the Government of India in July 1998 on electoral reforms to fix at three to strengthen democratic setup and has expressed satisfaction in July 2004. The Commission has also recommended that the Election Commissioners should also be given equal protection under the Constitution in the matter of their conditions of service and removability from office as is available to the Chief Election Commissioner.⁴³

⁴² Brij Kishore Sharma (2005). *Introduction to the Constitution of India*. New Delhi: Ashoke K. Ghosh. Prentice- Hall of India. p.305

⁴³ Data collected from the personal visit of ECI. New Delhi on 25.08.2016

Table No. IV - 2

List of Chief Election Commissioners from 1950 to 2018:

Sl.No	Name	Took Office	Left Office
1.	Sukumar Sen	21 March 1950	19 December 1958
2.	Kalan Sundaram	20 December 1958	30 September 1967
3.	S P Sen Verma	1 October 1967	30 September 1972
4.	Nagendra Singh	1 October 1967	6 February 1973
5.	T. Swaminathan	7 February 1973	17 June 1977
6.	S.L. Shakdhar	18 June 1977	17 June 1982
7.	R.K. Trivedi	18 June 1982	31 December 1985
8.	R.V.S. Peri Sastri	1 January 1986	25 November 1990
9.	V.S Ramdevi	26 November 1990	11 December 1990
10.	T.N. Seshan	12 December 1990	11 December 1996
11.	M.S.Gill	12 December 1996	13 June 2001
12.	J.M. Lyngdoh	14 June 2001	7 February 2004
13.	T. S. Krishnamurthy	8 February 2004	15 May 2005
14.	B.B.Tandon	16 May 2005	29 June 2006
15.	N. Gopalaswami	30 June 2006	20 April 2009
16.	Navin Chawla	21 April 2009	29 July 2010
17.	S.Y. Quraishi	30 July 2010	10 June 2012

18.	V.S. Sampath	11 June 2012	15 January 2015
19.	H.S. Brahma	16 January 2015	18 April 2015
20.	Dr. Nasim Zaidi	19 April 2015	5 July 2017
21.	A K Joti	6 July 2017	22 January 2018
22.	Om Prakash Rawat	23 January 2018	Incumbent

Source : *www.eci.nic.in*. Accessed on 25 January 2018

4.4 Status and conditions of service of the Chief Election Commission and other Election Commissioners:

The existing Constitutional provisions are silent on the position of the Chief Election Commissioner with respect to the Election Commissioners. Article 324(5) of the Constitution states that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and his conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment and the other Election Commissioners shall not be removed from his office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ SK. Menduratta. *op. cit.*, p.188

The status of the Chief Election Commissioner indicated that the Commission was to observe a high degree of impartiality in the conduct of elections. At the same time, the fact that the Chief Election Commissioner was appointed by the President from the senior administrative cadres who was close and confidante of the Prime Minister and Home Minister.⁴⁵ The Chief Election Commissioner stands at the apex of the hierarchy of the Election Commission of India. In a multi-member Commission, the Chief Election Commissioner has to act as the Chairman. He is solely responsible for the conduct of all elections to the Parliament and the State Legislatures.⁴⁶ Here the President of India appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners who have equal voting on decisions. They enjoy the same status and service conditions as one enjoyed by the judges of the Supreme Court of India, but, however, the removal of Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioner is different.⁴⁷ It may be noted that the protection given to the Chief Election Commissioner that he cannot be removed without following procedure applicable for the removal of the Judge of the Supreme Court is not given to other Election Commissioners and they can be removed on the recommendations of the Chief Election Commissioner. Again on 1st October

⁴⁵ U.N.Gupta (1986). *Indian Parliamentary Democracy*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers and Distributors. p.385

⁴⁶ J.K.Chopra (1989). *Politics of Election Reforms in India*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications. p.2

⁴⁷ P.Rathnaswamy (2004). *Electoral Reforms: Law and Institutions of India and World*. New Delhi: Bookwell. p.39

1993, the President issued an Ordinance fixing the number of the election Commissioners other than the Chief Election Commissioner.⁴⁸

The Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners draw salaries and allowances at par with those of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India as provided for by the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1992. So, the salary of Chief Election Commissioner is same as Justice of Supreme Court of India. It has been provided that the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner cannot be altered to his disadvantage after his appointment, the same has not been extended to the Election Commissioners.

To conclude, in this chapter, we have mentioned the original structure, powers and functions of Election Commission of India in a chronological manner. Some changes took place in the administrative set up of the Election Commission of India by effecting changes from time to time from single member to multi-member Commission and the status and conditions of service of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are also discussed in this chapter.

⁴⁸ Narendra Chapalgaonkar (1997). *Law of Elections*. New Delhi: An AIR Publication- All India Reports. p.8