

For favour of publicity

20th February, 2012

**A Statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister in a press-conference held in Mumbai on 20th February,2012.**

*Mumbai voted with 57 percent,  
Prepare denovo Voters' Rolls - Ram Naik*

**Mumbai, Monday :** " The percentage of voting in recent Mumbai Corporation elections is 57 and not 46, the electoral rolls are unlimitedly swelling, prepare denovo voters' rolls to maintain the sanctity of the democratic electoral process," demanded Shri Ram Naik, Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former petroleum Minister. He was addressing media persons in Mumbai to-day. Shri Naik has already written to Smt. Neela Satyanarayan, Commissioner, Maharashtra State Election Commission and Shri Devashish Chakravarti, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra State.

While amouncing about the percentage of recent polls held in 10 Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra, Smt. Neela Satyanarayan has expressed her disappointment about 46 percent low poll in Mumbai. Media as well as political analysists also offered their comments about lower percentage. However elucidating his view-point, Shri Ram Naik said, "The residential mobility of Mumbai citizens is very high. However neither the shifting nor even deaths are accounted automatically in the electoral rolls. Even after shifting, new names are added on the basis of applications but proper care is not being taken to delete those names from the old rolls. The government organisation looking after electoral rolls is most lethargic, highly inefficient and also of temorary nature. There is no permanent staff to look after this work. Hence the electoral rolls are swelling and the sanctity of electoral rolls in the democratic process is lost."

"When I observed, after the publication of rolls in 2008, that there are several 'duplicate' names in the rolls, I studied them minutely with the help of computers and noticed that out of 18,02,877 voters in three assembly constituencies viz 43 Malad, 44 Kandivli and 45 Borivli, there are 3,57,520 duplicate names amounting to 20 percent. I personally called on the Chief Election Commissioner, New Delhi and the Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra and gave them the list of 3,57,520 duplicate voters. Both of them assured me of positive action. However when the recent rolls for Mumbai Municipal elections were received, it was observed that the rolls have not been revised as promised," stated Shri Ram Naik.

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While giving his personal experience in recent election, Shri Ram Naik added further, "The voters' slips which political parties give to the voters at their residences, nearly 20 to 25 percent were received back as their residences could not be located. Another experience is that in the building in which I stay, out of 28 voters, 4 are dead, one is duplicate voter making the total of 5 which works to 18 percent. Names of my son-in-law Shri Chandrashekhar Kulkarni and daughter Smt. Vishakha Kulkarni appear at 3 places, though they have given in writing to delete 2 names. Thus it is obvious that electoral rolls include nearly 20 percent duplicate names. Considering this position, the percentage of voting should not be calculated on 100, but on 80. Hence the 46 percent voting would become 57.5 percent. This will reveal that Mumbai has voted more as compared to other Municipal Corporations and the conception of Mumbai's poor turnout is wrong."

"The only way to end this confusion of electoral rolls is to prepare deno electoral rolls. This will also help to maintain the sanctity of electoral rolls which is so necessary for effective democratic functioning," said Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**