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**A statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader and former  
Petroleum Minister in a Press Conference held on Friday, 9th May, 2014  
at Mumbai**

***Compile New Electoral Rolls for Mumbai : Ram Naik***

**Mumbai, Friday:** "In true democracy it is absolutely necessary to maintain sanctity of electoral rolls by making them flaw-less. However, the Election Commission has miserably failed in this duty in Mumbai. To resolve the issues of discrepancies in electoral rolls and thereafter to conduct assembly polls smoothly; the Election Commission must compile denovo electoral rolls of Mumbai, Thane and Pune by enumeration from house to house", demanded Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader & former Petroleum Minister in a press conference held today at Mumbai.

While elaborating on the demand of new electoral rolls Shri Naik said, "Mumbaitees voted on 24th April. Thereafter while compiling the data, I noticed that in 2009 there were 97,79,650 voters in the six Lok Sabha constituencies of Mumbai; whereas there were 98,97,699 voters in these constituencies in 2014; which means there was an increase of only 1,18,049 voters in the last five years. The other data received from the Election Officers of Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban Districts revealed that the total increase during these five years was of 18,93,686 voters and total deletions were of 16,23,612 voters. The difference between these two figures is of 2,70,074 voters. The more shocking figure in this is of deleted voters which are 16,23,612. Before deleting the names of voters on such a massive scale, the Election Officials should have taken great care; unfortunately normal precautions viz. giving notices, if voters were not traceable then to conduct 'Panchanama' and deletion thereafter, to get photographs of the enumerated voters etc. were not taken. This callousness has destroyed the sanctity of the electoral rolls. The only solution is to recompile denovo electoral rolls by going house to house. Along with Mumbai it should be done for Thane and Pune as such lacunas were experienced there too."

Shri Naik updated media about the efforts he had undertaken to make electoral rolls flawless. He said, "We realized that duplicate voters are in big number after the parliamentary elections of 2004. I met Shri N Gopalswami, the then Chief Election Commissioner on 4th April, 2008 and requested to investigate the matter. I got examined the electoral rolls of 3 assembly segments i.e. Malad, Kandivli and Borivli (prior to delimitation) and compared those with all the 34 assembly segments of Mumbai and 6 assembly segments of Thane. The result was shocking. Out of 18,02,877 voters of these three segments 3,57,520 i.e. 20% were duplicate voters. I presented the lists of these duplicate voters along with their names and serial nos to Shri Debashish Chakraborty, the then Chief Election Officer of Maharashtra on 30th April, 2008. Thereafter we had series of discussions with the Election Commission and Maharashtra's Chief Election Officer in 2008 and 2009. Once again we requested Shri S Y Quereshi, the then Chief Election Commissioner on 27th February, 2012 to

re-compile electoral rolls. We also made presentation to the three-member's full Election Commission. We got an assurance from the Election Commission that it would take necessary action. We called upon Shri Nitin Gadre, Chief Election Officer of Maharashtra on 10th July, 2013 when the preparations of electoral rolls for 2014 general elections started. We also had discussion in detail with Shri C. V. Oak, Mumbai City District Election Officer. He had also the additional charge as the Election Officer of Mumbai Suburban District. We gave the following suggestions :

1. Voters' names should be checked by making house to house visits to ensure such voters and houses exist in reality. If the visiting official fails to locate the house he should certify accordingly. This will help in initiating statutory procedure of deleting such names.
2. To avoid bogus voting electoral rolls must contain photographs of 100% voters. Voters without photographs should be served notice to submit them by giving time frame. Thereafter those who fail to submit photographs should be deleted from voters lists after completing statutory formalities.
3. Duplicate voters should be served notice and they should be asked to give in writing which name should be kept and which should be deleted. A provision to take their photograph should be made.
4. If during house to house visits it is found that voters are not staying at particular address as that building is being re-developed, their names should not be deleted if rolls contain their photographs. Utmost care should be taken to keep voting rights of such voters by making necessary amendments to the rule.
5. If during house to house visits particular voter is found deceased, then his name should be deleted only after obtaining signature of his family member or by some other voter of the area.

Had these suggestions implemented, the last month's fiasco could have been avoided."

Shri Naik applauded the Election Commission for sending voters' slips house to house. "If visiting personnel have returned these slips of untraced voters to the Returning Officers; the total number of such voters should be declared. This too will speak about the inefficiency and lacunas", commented Shri Naik.

Shri Naik has also written a letter to Shri V S Sampat, Chief Election Commissioner and has requested for an appointment. "It is often experienced that efficiency of the Election Commission is adversely affected as it has no permanent staff of its own at district level. To overcome this problem I shall try to establish proper dialogue between the Election Commission and New Government which will be formed after the election results", said Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**