



Election Commission of India

TOPIC –ALLOTMENT OF SYMBOLS



India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management



Introduction

Allotment of symbols to candidates is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

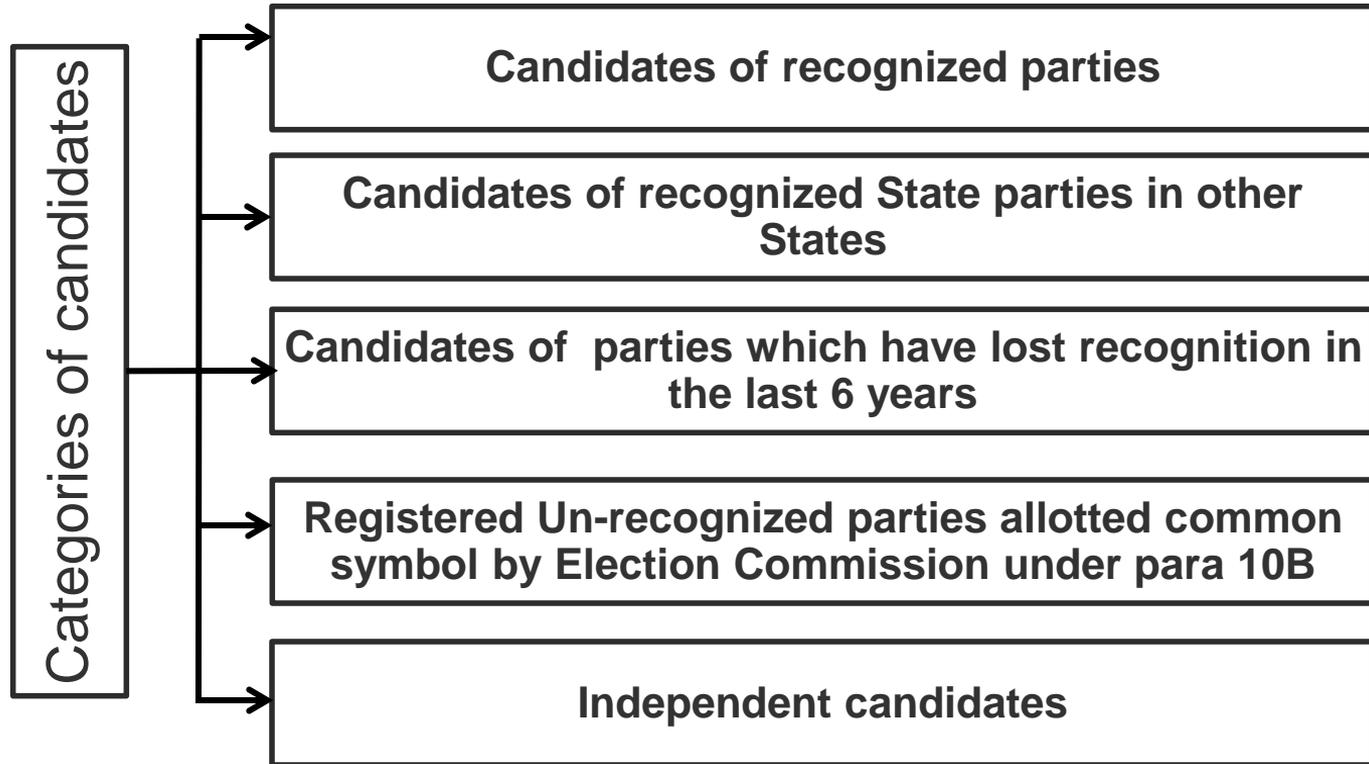
- ✓ **Choice of symbols made by a candidate (other than a candidate set up by a National or State Party) in the nomination paper first delivered to RO is considered whether that nomination paper is accepted or rejected during scrutiny.**
- ✓ **No choice of symbols made by him in subsequent nomination paper is of any value.**
- ✓ **There are different rules for candidates of different categories.**



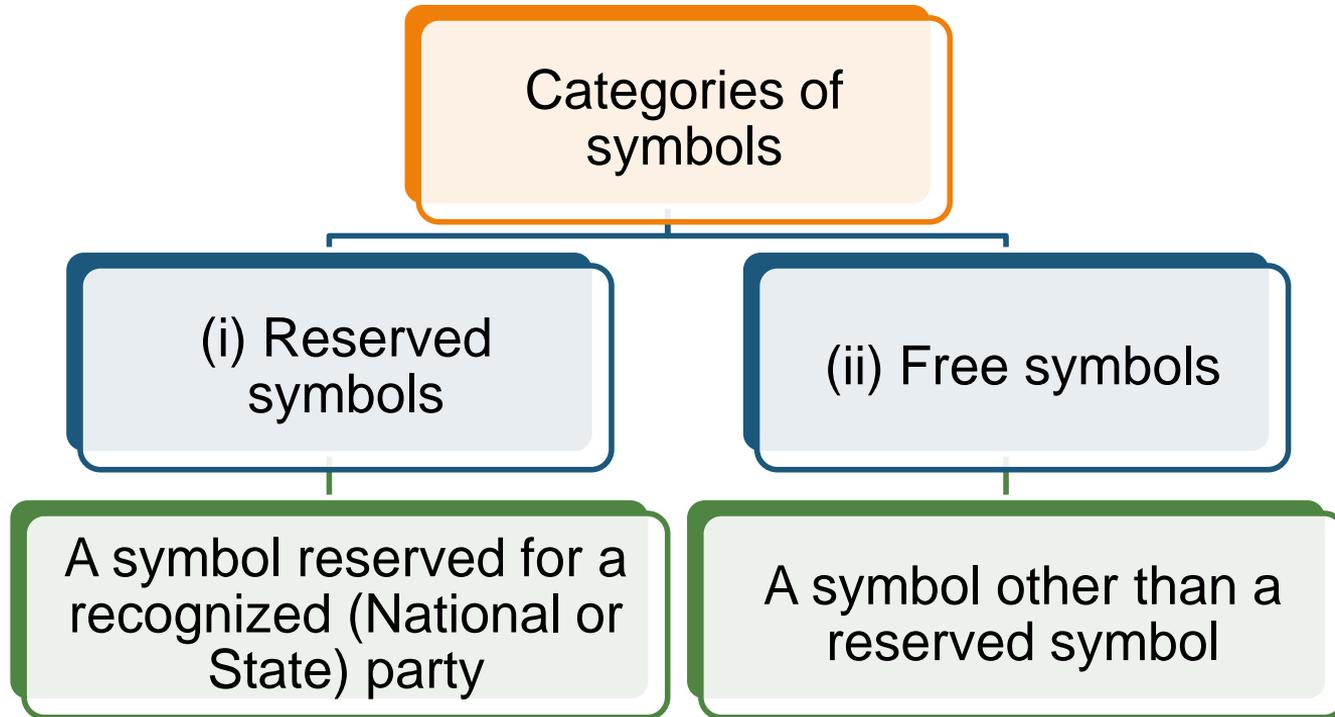
Terminologies Explained

- ✓ **'Political party'** means a party registered with ECI under section 29A of the RP Act, 1951;
- ✓ **'Recognized National political party'** means a party recognized as national party by ECI under Symbols Order, 1968.
- ✓ **'Recognized State political party'** means a party recognized as State party (in the state concerned) by ECI under Symbols Order, 1968.
- ✓ **'Registered-Unrecognized party'**: A political party registered with ECI under Section 29A of the RP Act, 1951 and which is not recognised by ECI as national or State party is a registered –unrecognized party.
- ✓ **Please note:**
 - ✓ A State party recognized in other State and not recognized in the state where elections are being conducted is a **registered-unrecognized party** in the concerned state.
- ✓ **Independent candidate** means candidates not set up by any political party.

Categories of Candidates for Symbol Allotment



The Concept of Symbols





Allotment of Symbols to candidates of recognized parties



- ✓ Candidates set up by recognized national and state political parties to get only the symbols reserved for those parties;
- ✓ The manner of setting up of candidates by political parties already explained.
- ✓ 'Political party' means a party registered with ECI under section 29A of the RP Act, 1951;
- ✓ 'Recognized political party' means a party recognized as national or state party by ECI under Symbols Order, 1968.



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of recognized State parties in other States

- ✓ A State party recognized in one State may be a registered-unrecognized party in any other State;
- ✓ If such party sets up candidates in any other State, such candidates can get party's reserved symbol under para 10, if :
 - ✓ **Central Office of party applies to ECI for such concession within three days from the date of election notification, giving details of the constituencies concerned; and**
 - ✓ **ECI has no objection to the grant of above concession.**
- ✓ RO shall allot the party's reserved symbol to the abovementioned candidate only if he receives the authorization from ECI, and not otherwise.



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of parties which have lost recognition

- ✓ It is a party which has lost recognition, within the last six years, as National / State party and is not recognized anywhere.
- ✓ It is treated as an unrecognized party.
- ✓ Such candidates can get party's earlier symbol under para 10A, if :
 - ✓ **Central Office of party applies to ECI for such concession within three days from the date of election notification, giving details of the constituencies concerned; and**
 - ✓ **ECI has issued instructions for allotment of the particular symbol to the candidates of that party.**
- ✓ RO shall allot the party's earlier symbol to the abovementioned candidate only if he receives the authorization from ECI, and not otherwise.



Common symbol for Registered Un-recognized parties

- ✓ Under para -10B of Symbols Order a registered un-recognized party can apply to ECI for allotment of common symbol for its candidates from among free symbols
- ✓ Subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, ECI may allot common symbol to such parties
- ✓ If orders are issued by EC for allotting common symbol to candidates of registered un-recognized party, RO shall allot common symbol as per orders of EC.



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties

- ✓ Allotment of symbols to candidates of registered unrecognized political parties other than those mentioned in para-10B above is governed by para 12 of Symbols Order;
- ✓ No symbol is reserved for any registered-unrecognized political party;
- ✓ These candidates have to choose symbols from list of free symbols notified by ECI;
- ✓ Every such candidate can give three options of free symbols, in order of preference;
- ✓ Such preferences indicated in his first nomination paper are to be taken into account, even if that nomination paper is rejected;



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties-Contd.



- ✓ If such candidate has given option for a particular free symbol as his first preference, he shall be allotted that symbol to the exclusion of all independent candidates;
- ✓ If candidates of more than one un-recognized party have given their first preference for the same free symbol, RO shall decide by lot which of those candidates should be given that free symbol;
- ✓ However, if any of those candidates is, or was, immediately before the election, a sitting MP/MLA, he shall be allotted that symbol without draw of lots;



Allotment of Symbols to candidates of registered un-recognized parties-Contd.



- ✓ If a candidate does not get his first preference symbol because of draw of lots, his second preference for a symbol shall not be treated now as his first preference, while considering the preferences of other candidates;
- ✓ If a candidate does not get any of the symbols as per his preferences, he shall be allotted a symbol at the end of the allotment process (including the allotment of symbols to the independent candidates) from out of the remaining free symbols available for allotment with the RO.



Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates

- ✓ Allotment of symbols to independent candidates is also governed by para 12 of Symbols Order;
- ✓ These candidates have to choose symbols from list of free symbols notified by ECI;
- ✓ Every such candidate can give three options of free symbols, in order of preference;
- ✓ Such preferences indicated in his first nomination paper are to be taken into account, even if that nomination paper is rejected;



Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates-Contd.

- ✓ If such candidate has given option for a particular free symbol as his first preference and no candidate of a registered un-recognized party has opted for that symbol as his first preference, he shall be allotted that symbol to the exclusion of all other candidates;
- ✓ If more than one independent candidates have given their first preference for the same free symbol, RO shall decide by lot which of those candidates should be given that free symbol;



Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates-Contd.

- ✓ However, if any of those candidates is, or was, immediately before the election, a sitting MP/MLA, he shall be allotted that symbol without draw of lots, provided that he contested the earlier election on that very symbol;
- ✓ If a candidate does not get his first preference symbol because of draw of lots, his second preference for a symbol shall not be treated now as his first preference, while considering the preferences of other candidates;



Allotment of Symbols to independent candidates-Contd.



- ✓ If a candidate does not get any of the symbols as per his preferences, he shall be allotted a symbol at the end of the allotment process (including the allotment of symbols to the independent candidates) from out of the remaining free symbols available for allotment with the RO.

Do's during allotment of symbols

Do's



- ✓ Only the latest list of political parties and symbols issued by the Election Commission should be referred to, while deciding about the list of symbols.
- ✓ In case of doubt, the office of CEO or ECI Division concerned must be consulted.
- ✓ The candidate should be asked to give in writing about his consent for a particular symbol if none of the symbols requested is available.



Do's during allotment of symbols-Contd.

Do's



- ✓ **Record proceedings in case of lot.**
- ✓ Any nonstandard photographs, if already detected, should be got correctly replaced by the candidate. The photo to be used in ballot paper should be obtained in writing by the candidate.
- ✓ Follow the Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order, 1968 and ECI guidelines.

Don'ts during allotment of symbols

Don'ts



- ✓ Don't consult old copies of symbol books.
- ✓ Don't forget to compare the photographs in the draft ballot paper with the original nomination paper before the design of the ballot paper is finalised.
- ✓ The photographs should not get mixed up.



*Thank
you*

