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PART II

Statutory Notifications (S.R.O.)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

*Islamabad, the 24th November, 2023*

**S. R. O. 1721(I)/2023.—Law:** In exercise of its powers conferred through section 239 of the Elections Act, 2017 (Act No. XXXIII of 2017), the Election Commission is pleased to make following amendments in the Election Rules, 2017, namely—

**In the Election Rules, 2017—**

**(a) Sub-rule (3) of rule 52 shall be substituted with the following provisions, namely:**

“(3) The sum deposited by a candidate under Section 61 shall be non-refundable and shall be deposited in the Government Treasury in the receipt head “C02-Recepts from Civil Administration and other functions, C021 General Administration Receipts — Organs of state C02166 — Receipts of Election Commission of Pakistan under Elections Act, 2017” of the Election Commission.”

(3565)

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**And thereafter sub-rule (4) of Rule 52 shall stand omitted.**

- (b) Sub-rule (3) of rule 56, shall be substituted with the following provisions, namely:**

“(3) The Returning Officer shall publish the list of contesting candidates with their respective symbols at some conspicuous place in his office and furnish a copy thereof to the contesting candidates, District Election Commissioner, Provincial Election Commissioner and to the Commission, which shall upload it for display on its website.”

- (c) Sub-rule (4) of Rule 66, shall be substituted with the following provisions, namely:**

“(4) After the ballot papers have been issued to all the voters referred to in sub-rule (1), the Returning Officer shall place all the counterfoils of the postal ballot papers in one or more packets and sign and seal the same and record on the packet(s) a brief description of its contents, the number of counterfoils contained therein, the name of the constituency and the date on which he seals it.”

- (d) In sub-rule (2) of rule 71, the expressions “sub-section (1) of section 95” shall be substituted with the expressions “sub-section (4) of section-93”.**

- (e) In sub-rule (2) of rule 85, after the expressions “the Returning Officer shall” the following expressions shall be inserted, namely:**

“in presence of contesting candidates and one of their election agents duly authorized by such candidate as may be present”.

- (f) In Rule 87, after sub-rule (2), following new sub-rule 2A shall be inserted, namely:**

“(2A) The provisional and final consolidated statement of results of the count and final consolidated results, as referred to, in clause (da) of sub-section (1) of section 99 to be prepared on Form-47, 48 and 49 respectively shall be sealed by Returning Officer in TEB-II before sealing the same in TEB-III.”

- (g) In sub-rule (1) of rule 143, the expressions “one hundred and twenty days” shall be substituted with the words “one hundred and eighty days”.
- (h) In sub-rule (4) of rule 143, at the end, the words “such costs as the Tribunal may determine” shall be substituted with the following provisions, namely:

“One hundred thousand rupees and election petition shall be decided within one hundred and eighty days of its filing and in case petition is not finally decided within one hundred and eighty days the further adjournment sought by a party shall be granted only on payment of special costs ranging from ten thousand to fifty thousand rupees per adjournment and adjournment shall not be granted for more than three days.”

- (i) In Form-41, instruction (g), after the expressions “reaches the Returning Officer before the” the following provision shall be inserted, namely:

“before the poll day under sub-section (4) of section-93”

And thereafter the expressions “time fixed for consolidation of the results by the Returning Officer under sub-section (1) of section 95” shall stand omitted.

- (j) In Form-41, instruction (h)(ii) shall be substituted with the following provision, namely:

“ii. If the cover does not reach the Returning Officer before the poll day under sub-section (4) of section-93, your vote will not be counted.”

**By Order of the Election Commission of Pakistan.**

[No. F. 18(1)/2023-Law.]

SAIMA TARIQ JANJUHAH,  
*Deputy Director (Law).*