

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN**  
*(Public Relations Wing)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Islamabad, the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2016*

**The ECP Reviews Arrangements of Printing of Ballot Papers for the General Elections-2018.**

The Election Commission of Pakistan convened a high level meeting of the stakeholders to review the arrangements for the printing of the ballot papers for General Election – 2018. The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mr. Sardar Muhammad Raza, Hon'ble Members Election Commission of Pakistan, Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan, Secretary Cabinet, Chairman Pakistan Security Printing Press, Chairman Pakistan Post Foundation and other Senior Officers attended the said meeting.

2. Matters related to the printing of ballot papers for the General Election were discussed at length. According to the briefing given by the Election Commission of Pakistan, for General Elections-2018 more than 20 crores ballot papers would be required for National and Provincial Assemblies Elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan desires fool proof arrangements for the timely and accurate printing of the ballot papers. The Secretary Cabinet informed that Printing Corporation of Pakistan have the capacity of printing 13.5 crores ballot papers within 20 days using their old and new machines set up. The only lacuna for the old printing machines is that they do not print numbers on ballot papers whereas Printing Corporation of Pakistan have 15 new state of the art printing machines which could print the numbers on ballot papers as well. With only these new machines, they could print about 4 crores ballot papers in 20 days, prior to general elections.

3. The chairman of Pakistan Security Printing Corporation, Misbah Tunio informed that they could print about 75 millions ballot papers in 20 days before the elections with their latest printing press. The Pakistan Post informed they could print 10 corers ballot papers with their latest machines within 20 days.

4. The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner directed the Secretary Cabinet to inform about their realistic capacity within next 2 weeks if they could acquire the required machines and manpower required for printing of ballot papers within stipulated time period.

5. The Commission also decided that no ballot papers would be printed with machinery which cannot print numbers. The Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan categorically informed that no organization would be engaged for printing of ballot papers which could not accomplish the task satisfactorily in given time period.

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