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(2) it shall be the general duty of the returning officer at any election to do all such acts and things as may be necessary for effectually conducting the election in the manner provided by the Regulation or rules or order made thereunder.

32. **Assistant Returning Officers:** (1) The Commission may appoint one or more persons to assist any returning officer in the performance of his functions.

Provided that every such person shall be an officer of the Administration or of a local authority.

(2) Every assistant returning officer shall, subject to the control of the returning officer, be

competent to perform all or any of the functions of the returning officer.

Provided that no assistant returning officer shall perform any of the functions of the returning officer which relate to the scrutiny of nominations unless the returning officer is unavoidably prevented from performing the said function.

33. **Polling Stations:** The returning officer shall appoint a presiding officer for each polling station and such polling officer or officers as he thinks necessary, but he shall not appoint any person who has been employed by, or on behalf of, or has been otherwise working for, a candidate in or about the election:

34. **Presiding Officers and polling Officers:** (1) The returning officer shall appoint a presiding officer for each polling station and such polling officer or officers as he thinks necessary, but he shall not appoint any person who has been employed by, or on behalf of, or has been otherwise working for, a candidate in or about the election:

Provided that if a polling officer is absent from the polling station, the presiding officer may appoint any person who is present at the polling station other than a person who has been employed by, or on behalf of, or has been otherwise working for, a candidate in or about the election, to be the polling officer during the absence of the former officer, and in case of any such appointment he shall inform the returning officer accordingly :

Provided further that nothing in this sub-rule shall prevent the returning officer from appointing the same person to be presiding officer for more than one polling station in the same premises.

(2) A polling officer shall, if so directed by the presiding officer, perform all or any of the functions of a presiding officer under these rules or order made thereunder.

(3) If the presiding officer is absent from the polling station, his functions shall be performed by such polling officer as has been previously authorized by the returning officer to perform such functions during any such absence.

(4) It shall be the general duty of the presiding officer at a polling station to keep order against threat and to see that the poll is fairly taken.

(5) It shall be the general duty of the polling officer at a polling station to assist the presiding officer for such station in the performance of his functions.

CHAPTER - X

RESERVATION OF SYMBOLS

35. **Reservation of symbol:** (1) 1) For the purpose of election in any constituency, symbols shall be allotted to the candidates in accordance with the order issued by the Commission from time to time indicating the symbols and manner of its allotment.

CHAPTER - XI

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

36. **Appointment of dates for nominations etc:** As soon as the notification under rule 30 is issued, the Commission shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint:-

(a) the last date and hours for making nominations which shall be the seventh day after the date of publication of the said notification under rule 30;