

**Regarding situation arising out of ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters list in various states-Laid**

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** It has been reported that citizens are facing difficulties in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), conducted in different states. It has also been reported that about twenty-eight Booth Level Officers (BLOs) engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various States died so far. Based on ground reality, this number is far higher than reported, which is extremely worrying. In this regard, the West Bengal Chief Minister has written to Chief Election Commission suggesting that since, there are substantial number of competent professionals in district level offices to perform such functions, there is no need to outsource the same work through external agencies. In this context, I would like to urge the Government to either stop the exercise for the time being or extend time to conduct SIR in smooth manner. I also request the Government to publish the proposed voter list in digital, searchable, and machine-readable format and direct the ECI to focus on transparency and accountability.