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Aug. 15 date for parties' listing

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16
(PTI).

All political parties should register themselves with the election commission before August 14 under a new provision of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988, brought into force from yesterday.

Under section 29A of the amended R.P. Act, the existing political parties should make the application for registration within 60 days from yesterday and any party coming into existence after June 15 should do so within 30 days.

The Central Government yesterday brought into force the new provision for mandatory registration of political parties. The election commission simultaneously amended its election symbols (reservation and allotment) order to provide for registration of political parties under the R.P. Act and not under the symbols order as was hitherto done.

The election commission said in a press note that under the symbols order it has made a transitional provision under which every political party which was a national party or a state party or registered unrecognised party before June 15 (yesterday), shall continue to be so until August 14 which was the last date before which they should apply for registration.

If the parties apply for registration their present status would continue until their application for registration was disposed of by the election commission.

The commission said after an existing political party, which complied with the requirement of the new law under the new section 29A, was registered by the commission it would have, subject to the provisions of the symbols order, the same status (that is, national party or state party or unrecognised party as the case may be) as it had at present.

The commission has already drawn the attention of all political parties to the requirements of the new section 29A on three occasions. The commission has again written to them yesterday also.

The note said the application of parties for registration should contain a specific provision that they would bear true faith and allegiance to the constitution of India and the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

No party would be registered unless its memorandum of rules and regulations contained this specific allegiance provisions, it added.

The note said every application must be signed by the chief executive officer of the party and presented to the commission's secretary.

After a party is registered any change in its name, head office, office bearers, address or any other material matters should be communicated to the commission without delay.