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W.P.No.206 of 2026

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**

**DATED : 21.04.2026**

**CORAM**

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI**

**W.P.No.206 of 2026**

**And**

**W.M.P.Nos.234, 235 and 15096 of 2026**

The New India Assurance Employees'  
Co-operative Thrift & Credit Society Limited,  
Rep by Managing Director,  
Regd. No.X-413, Fathima Akhtar Court,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, No.453, Anna Salai,  
Teynampet,  
Chennai – 600 018.

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1 The Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies,  
Rep. by Central Registrar,  
World Trade Centre,  
Tower-E, 9th Floor,  
Nauroji Nagar,  
New Delhi – 110 029.
- 2 The Co-operative Election Authority,  
Rep. by its Chairperson,  
Office of Co-operative Election Authority,  
World Trade Centre,  
Tower-E, 9th Floor,  
Nauroji Nagar,  
New Delhi – 110 029.



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- 3 Smt.Rashmi Siddharth Zagade, I.A.S.  
The District Collector/ Magistrate,  
Returning Officer of New India Assurance  
Employees Co-operative Thrift & Credit  
Society Limited,  
Regd. No.X-413, Office of District Collectorate,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, No.62, Rajaji Salai,  
George Town,  
Chennai – 600 001.
- 4 Smt.M.Sudarvizhi,  
Deputy Registrar/ Assistant Returning Officer,  
The New India Assurance Employees'  
Co-operative Thrift & Credit Society Limited,  
No. 453, Anna Salai,  
Chennai – 600 018.

... Respondents

**Prayer:**

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for the records relating to order vide letter No.CEA-12011/287/2025, dated 26.11.2025 issued by the second respondent and quash the same, and consequently direct the third respondent to expeditiously complete the election to the Board of Directors of the Petitioner Society, from polling to declaration of results, in terms of the Election Programme Schedule and the second respondent's order dated 11.07.2025, in the interest of justice.

For Petitioner : Mr.B.Ullasavelan  
For Respondents : Mr.K.K.Muralidharan for R1, R2  
Central Government Counsel  
Mr.T.M.Rajangam for R3, R4  
Government Advocate



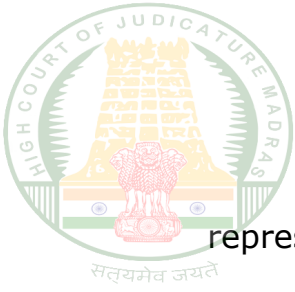
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## ORDER

The petitioner has filed this writ petition seeking issuance of Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for the records relating to order vide letter No.CEA-12011/287/2025, dated 26.11.2025 issued by the second respondent and quash the same, and consequently direct the third respondent to expeditiously complete the election to the Board of Directors of the Petitioner Society, from polling to declaration of results, in terms of the Election Programme Schedule and the second respondent's order dated 11.07.2025, in the interest of justice.

2.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the issue involved in the writ petition pertains to conduct of election for Multi – State Cooperative Society. The learned counsel further submitted that the petitioner society was converted as Multi – State Cooperative Society on 19.06.1974 and Bye-laws were framed as per Multi – State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. The power to order election is with the first respondent and election has to be conducted through respondents 2 to 4. The grievance of the petitioner is that as per Bye-laws, Chennai Region with Registered Office has a



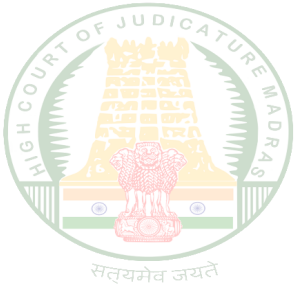
W.P.No.206 of 2026

representation of 12 Directors of which 9 are to be elected from General Category, 2 from Women Category and 1 from SC/St Category, however, the impugned letter restricted representation to Board from Chennai Region to 9 instead of 12 and created open constituency of Women and SC/ST allowing any member from any region to contest in such constituency. Aggrieved by the same, the petitioner filed this writ petition.

3.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner further submitted that during the pendency of this writ petition, the first respondent issued letter dated 05.02.2026 clarifying the impugned letter. Hence this Court may, without going into the merits of the case, issue direction to the third respondent to conduct election for Multi – State Cooperative Society, strictly in terms of the Bye-laws and letter of the first respondent dated 05.02.2026.

4.Considering the limited relief now sought for by the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, this Court without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, directs the third respondent to conduct election for Multi – State Cooperative Society, strictly in terms of the Bye-laws and letter of the first respondent dated 05.02.2026.

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5.The writ petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

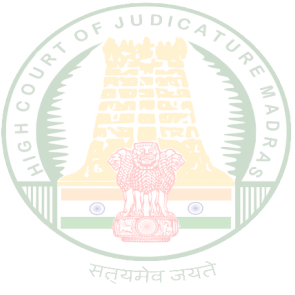
**21.04.2026**

pri  
Index: Yes/ No  
Speaking Order: Yes/ No  
NCC: Yes/ No

To

- 1 The Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies,  
Rep. by Central Registrar,  
World Trade Centre,  
Tower-E, 9th Floor,  
Nauroji Nagar,  
New Delhi – 110 029.
- 2 The Co-operative Election Authority,  
Rep. by its Chairperson,  
Office of Co-operative Election Authority,  
World Trade Centre,  
Tower-E, 9th Floor,  
Nauroji Nagar,  
New Delhi – 110 029.
- 3 Smt.Rashmi Siddharth Zagade, I.A.S.  
The District Collector/ Magistrate,  
Returning Officer of New India Assurance  
Employees Co-operative Thrift & Credit  
Society Limited,  
Regd. No.X-413, Office of District Collectorate,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, No.62, Rajaji Salai,  
George Town,  
Chennai – 600 001.

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**M.DHANDAPANI,J.**  
pri

- 4 Smt.M.Sudarvizhi,  
Deputy Registrar/ Assistant Returning Officer,  
The New India Assurance Employees'  
Co-operative Thrift & Credit Society Limited,  
No. 453, Anna Salai,  
Chennai – 600 018.

**W.P.No.206 of 2026**  
**And**  
**W.M.P.Nos.234, 235 and 15096 of 2026**

**21.04.2026**

URGENT  
By E-mail

No. CEA-12011/287/2025  
Government of India  
Ministry of Cooperation  
Office of Co-operative Election Authority  
\*\*\*\*\*

9th Floor, Tower-E, World Trade Center,  
Nauroji Nagar, Delhi-110029  
Dated: 05<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

To,

District Collector, Chennai and Returning Officer  
New India Assurance Employees' Cooperative Thrift & Credit Society Limited.  
Rajaji Salai, Fourth Floor, 62, Beach Rd,  
George Town, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600001.  
Email- [collrchn@nic.in](mailto:collrchn@nic.in)

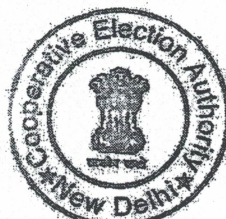
Sub.: WP NO. 206 & WMP NOS.234 & 235 of 2026 in the matter of THE NEW INDIA ASSURANCE EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETY LIMITED in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. - instruction of the CEA reg.

Ma'am,

I am directed to refer to your letter no. P2/E-1630500/2025 dated 02.12.2025 received today from office of CRCS and to say that the issues raised in your letter have been considered by the Cooperative Election Authority in the meeting dated 05.02.2025 (brief enclosed) and decided to clarify as under:

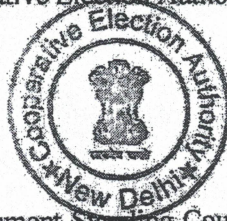
Advice Sought by Returning Officer vide letter dated 02.12.2025	Advice of the Authority
Whether Bye-Law 15(1) is to be interpreted as permitting every member to vote for all 20 Directors, irrespective of regional constituency.	Yes, it also is in consonance with the original Election programme issued vide Order dated 11.07.2025 (Annex-B) in which the para 4 which clearly says that "The Constituency shall be as per registered and approved Bye-Laws of the Society. Every voter member has a right to elect director individually"
Whether any modification in seat allocation or voting eligibility can be implemented without a formal amendment to the Bye-Laws in accordance with the prescribed statutory procedure.	No, therefore, as indicated above the constituency shall be as per approved Bye-Laws 39. However, it is expected that the Bye-Laws of the Society are in conformity with MSCS Act & Rule framed thereunder

3. In this regard, it is informed that the communication no. CEA-12011/287/2025 dated 26.11.2025 issued after consideration of a representation dated 29.10.2025 from Bhartiya Vima Karamchari Sena received through Legal Notice dated 10.11.2025 (a copy is enclosed as Annex-A). CEA's letter dated 26.11.2025 stands withdrawn on 27.11.2025 in view of the position explained by RO vide its email dated 26.11.2025 (a copy is enclosed as Annex-B). Further, the Authority has reconsidered the matter and has agreed with contention of District Magistrate, Chennai & RO that Bye-Laws 15 & 39 be implemented to imply that the constituency shall be as per Bye-Law 39 and the voting shall be as per Bye-Laws 15, which mean that all member shall cast vote for all directors. Accordingly, the CEA's earlier letter dated 27.11.2025 stands modified. Returning Officer may inform the Hon'ble High Court appropriately.



4. The Hon'ble High Court may also be informed that after decision of the court in this matter, District Magistrate, Chennai & RO shall commence the election programme from the stage of Polling onwards, as the list of contesting candidates has been finalized on 26.11.2025 by RO as per the election programme dated 11.07.2025. The list of the final candidates shall be displayed as per MSCS Act & Rules framed thereunder and also on the website of the Society. A clear notice of 15 days may be given by Returning Officer between the displaying of "valid nomination list" and the date of poll.

5. This issues with the approval of Co-operative Election Authority.



*Sanjeev Kumar*  
(Sanjeev Kumar)

Director

Tel. No.: 011-20909039

Copy to:

1. Shri K.K Muralitharan, Central Government Standing Counsel, High Court of Madras, Email-[kkmurali.tharan@gmail.com](mailto:kkmurali.tharan@gmail.com)