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Coming to the aid of the voter

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DH News Service

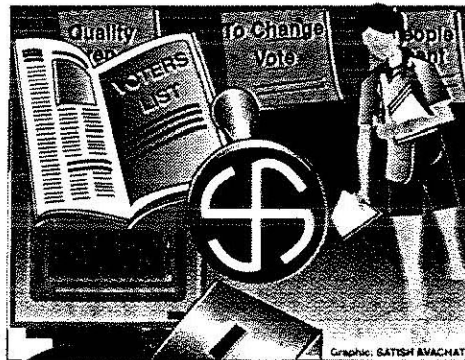
BANGALORE, Nov 23

First enlist yourself on the voters' list, but don't forget to verify it because people can vanish, sexes may change and the dead can come to life again in the voters' list, says the campaign literature of a city-based NGO Public Affairs Centre (PAC), which is striving to improve the quality of governance in the country.

Do you want to register your name in the voters' list or delete your name or correct it and do not know where to go and what to do? Then contact PAC.

The PAC is actively involved in the ongoing summary revision of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission. The efforts of the NGO have been authenticated by the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

The organisation has set up 9 helpline services covering 15 places in the State, given advertisements in prominent weeklies and has extensively publicised the message through posters, pamphlets, e-mail and to school children. Besides, it has sent pamphlets to city-



based resident welfare associations and around 2000 NGO's in the State, requesting them to spread the message.

Bad representatives are elected by good citizens who do not vote, goes the dictum. To check unscrupulous people mis-using the votes of citizens and to improve the quality of elected representatives and the election process, it is necessary for people to vote. With this motto we are involved in the entire process of electoral reforms, says Ms Smrita Bidarkar of PAC. "To

reach the maximum people we tried to exhaust all media of communication," she adds.

Helplines were set up on November 20 and will continue till November 30. "In Mysore and Mangalore, the helpline is flooded with calls and in Bangalore we receive at least 20 calls a day," said Ms Bidarkar. The ongoing summary revision is in view of the forthcoming urban local body elections in 2001. The voters' list is periodically updated and this is called summary revision, during which the voter can include his name, correct any mistakes or delete names from the list.

The PAC has sent e-mails with catchy messages to corporate groups informing them about the importance of getting enrolled on the voter's list. Posters and pamphlets have been distributed to school children in the city asking them to spread the message to their parents.

Some of the the helplines of PAC are, Bangalore (5525453), Mysore(515150), Mangalore (915 - 30184), Gulbarga (20379). Individuals or organisations may contact PAC at 578, 16th B Main, III Cross, III Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, ph (080) 5520246/5525453, e-mail: pacindia@vsnl.com.