

**Public (Elections-III) Department**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Election Commission of India has pointed out that complaints had come in the past that some of the Presiding Officers do not close the EVM by pressing the 'CLOSE BUTTON' after the end of poll which can lead to suspicion about manipulation. The Commission has been issuing various instructions in this regard in the interest of free and fair poll from time to time.

To avoid such contingencies during the Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 180.Pudukkottai Assembly Constituency, the Commission's instructions are reiterated as follows –

- (1) All Presiding Officers should close the EVM by pressing CLOSE BUTTON at the end of poll in the presence of all such polling agents as may be present.
- (2) All Presiding Officers should draw a line at the end of poll after the last entry in Form 17-A and should record the signed statement thereafter "The serial number of last entry in Form 17-A is \_\_\_\_\_" and obtain the signatures of all polling agents, as may be present, below this statement.
- (3) All Presiding Officers should give an attested copy of the Account of Votes Recorded (in Form 17C) at the end of poll to all such polling agents as may be present, irrespective of their asking for it or not.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,  
TAMIL NADU.

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