

Public (Elections-III) Department

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In order to ensure that electoral abuses are effectively checked and not allowed to vitiate the poll process, the Election Commission has directed that all District Election Officers-cum-District Magistrates should set up a proper system for receiving the Presiding Officer's Diary, Visit Sheets, the Diaries maintained by Patrolling / Zonal Officers, record of images of voters captured by digital cameras and Complaint Registers of the District Control Room at the time of collection of polled material on poll day. Effective and thorough scrutiny of these will enable identification of cases of poll vitiation at any polling station. This exercise shall be carried out under close supervision of Observers, Returning Officers and District Election Officers. The intention is to identify the polling stations where electoral abuse could have taken place in a subtle and concealed manner.

2. The Commission has also laid down the following criteria for selection of the Polling Stations for scrutiny of the documents including the Register of Voters in Form-17A by the Observers and the Returning Officers in the presence of contesting candidates or his Election Agents:

- i. In all polling stations where any complaint of poll rigging / malpractices, etc. was received by Observer, District Election Officer or Returning Officer during the poll process.
- ii. In all polling stations where any significant event (EVM related or otherwise) was reported to the Observers, District Election Officer or Returning Officer during poll process
- iii. In polling stations where mock poll took place in the absence of any polling agent or presence of agent of only one candidate.
- iv. In polling stations where the number of electors who cast their votes using documents other than EPIC (i.e. alternative documents) exceeded a certain percentage of total votes cast in that polling stations.

- v. In polling stations where more than 10% of such electors who had been identified as "shifted / absent" turned up and voted.
- vi. In polling stations where polling percentage is plus or minus a certain percentage of the average polling percentage of that Assembly Constituency.
- vii. In polling station where Remarks column in the Register of Voters does not indicate the name and number of EPIC or alternate Identification documents permitted by the Commission.
- viii. In polling stations where there is any tender vote / challenged vote, reported.

3. The above scrutiny will take place at 11 a.m. on the next day of poll. A proper notice will be issued to all candidates to be present during the scrutiny.

4. The Commission has pointed out that instances have come to notice that the Polling Officer-2 had not filled up the particulars of EPIC or other identification documents in the Remarks column of the Register of Voters (in Form 17A). The Commission has indicated that this could be considered as gross negligence on the part of the Polling Officer as well as the Presiding Officer inviting severe disciplinary action against the officials concerned.

Narek Agha
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, 23.04.09
TAMIL NADU.

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சென்னை, இயக்குகை.
சென்னை, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை.
கலைமைச் செயலகம். சென்னை.