

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110 001.

No. 4/2013/SDR

Dated: 22nd March, 2013

To

The Chief Electoral Officer,
Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Subject:- General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka-
Provision of Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961,
regarding electors deciding not to vote.

Sir,

Rule 49 O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 provides that if an elector after his electoral roll number has been duly entered in the Register of Voters in Form 17A and has put his signature or thumb impression thereon, as required under sub-rule (1) of rule 49L, decides not to record his vote, a remark to that effect ("decided not to vote") shall be made against the said entry in the Register of Voters in Form 17 A by the Presiding Officer, and signature or thumb impression of the elector shall be obtained against such remark. The procedure to be followed in such cases is explained in Chapter XXIII of Handbook for Presiding Officers (2009).

2. The above instructions shall be brought to the notice of all election related officials, especially the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, during their training sessions for strict compliance of the prescribed procedure to deal with electors who decide not to cast vote after signing in the Register of Voters in Form 17A. There should not be complaints from any quarters that the Polling Personnel are not aware of the procedure in this regard, resulting in confusion in the Polling Station and inconvenience to the electors.

3. Further, the Commission has directed that the total number of electors who may decide not to vote invoking the provision of the said Rule 49 O should be compiled for record purposes. The figures regarding the number of such

electors are required to be indicated against Item-3 of Part-1 of Form 17C (Account of votes recorded). Instructions may be issued to all Returning Officers to collect the said figures from Form 17C at the time of counting of votes. The information so compiled may be sent to the Commission indicating the total number of such electors constituency-wise.

4. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,



(N.T. Bhutia)
Under Secretary