

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110 001.

No. 4/2009/SDR

Dated: 9th March, 2009.

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of,
all States and Union Territories.

Subject:- General Elections to the House of the People & to the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Sikkim - Provision of Rule 49O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, regarding electors deciding not to vote.

Sir/Madam,

The Commission has announced the schedule for the General Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Sikkim on 2nd March, 2009. In this connection, your attention is invited to Commission's letter No. 4/2004/JS-II dated 29-9-2004 (copy enclosed) regarding the procedure to be followed in the case of electors deciding not to vote under Rule 49O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

The instructions in the above referred letter shall be brought to the notice of all election related officials, especially the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers at the current general elections for strict compliance of the prescribed procedure to deal with electors who decide not to cast vote after signing in Form 17A. There have been complaints from several quarters that the Polling Personnel are not aware of the procedure in this regard.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)
UNDER SECRETARY