

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

K.N.Bhar
Under Secretary

No.51/8/2009-EMS

Dated: 18th March, 2009

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Introduction of Braille Signage Features in Electronic Voting Machines.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Commission's instructions dated 12th February, 2009 and to state that some Chief Electoral Officers have expressed their inability to implement the Braille Signage feature in all the polling stations on the ground that not much Braille literate electors are available in all the polling stations of the States. The Commission has considered this and has decided that the Chief Electoral Officers may quickly conduct a survey for their State/UT and find out whether the opinion mentioned above is correct in respect of their States/UTs also. In such a case, the Chief Electoral Officers may consider to adopt a model followed by National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun since 2004 where they set up an auxiliary polling station for the Braille literate electors in their institute to facilitate the casting of votes by the visually impaired electors without companion. One ballot paper was printed in Braille Signage and was kept with Presiding Officer for the use of visually impaired electors and another in normal font was kept on the ballot unit of the EVM. Chief Electoral Officers having difficulty to implement the scheme of Braille Signage Feature in all the polling stations of their States/UTs may like to consider to adopt this alternative model in the polling station area where there is presence of Braille literate electors. To assist them in logistics for implementation of this scheme, they may identify the agency at their level according to their convenience.

Yours faithfully,

(K.N.Bhar)