

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi

No.470/2011/EPS

Dated:- 5th March, 2011

To,

The Chief Electoral Officer of

1. Assam. Dispur,
2. Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram.
3. Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
4. West Bengal, Kolkata,
5. Puducherry, Puducherry.

Subj: General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry- Counting of Votes-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Commission 's letter Nos. 470/2007/PLN-I, dated 29.08.2007, 470/2008/EPS, dated 19th January, 2009, 470/2009/EPS, dated 21.01.2009 and 470/2009/EPS, dated 22.01.2009 regarding counting of votes for General/Bye-elections to the House of the People/Legislative Assemblies in addition to the measures prescribed therein for ensuring transparency of counting of votes, the Commission has directed that the following additional measures/steps shall be strictly followed for the counting of votes:-

- (i) The Computer and the table used for entering the date of counting of votes shall be kept in the same Hall where the counting is being held. In case the computer cannot be placed in the counting hall, the Observer's certification shall be taken and in the case the Observer will be decide the alternative location.
- (ii) At the computer table one counting agent of each of the contesting candidates will be allowed to be seated.
- (iii) In addition one micro-observer shall be present at the computer table. The micro-observer should be drawn from a Public Sector Banks.
- (iv) There shall be one micro-observer at the Returning Officer's Table in the counting halls of all the Assembly Constituencies who shall also be drawn from the Public Sector Banks.

- (v) The manual tabulation data of each round of counting at each table shall be signed by the Observer.
- (vi) Thereafter, the said data shall be entered in the Excel Sheet in the Computer and a print-out of the same shall be taken out and compared by the Observer and will also be signed by the Observer
- (vii) A copy of the same shall be given to the Counting Agents of the candidates.
- (viii) The above process shall be repeated for each round of counting.
- (ix) Before the final result sheet is signed by the Returning Officer, the Observer shall check the entries relating to each round of counting entered in the Computer Excel Sheet with the signed print-out sheets and verify the same.
- (x) Before the declaration of the result the Returning Officers should obtain written authorizations from the Observers regarding the declaration of results.
- (xi) Thereafter, the Returning Officer shall sign the final result sheet and declare the result after following the procedure.

This may be brought to the notice of all the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Counting Supervisors and the Observers immediately for the compliance. The may be also brought to the notice of all the candidates by the Returning Officers concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
UNDER SECRETARY