

BY SPEED POST

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

Dilip K Varma
Under Secretary

No.51/8/7/2011-EMOPS

Dated: 10th February, 2012

To

The Chief Electoral Officers
Of all States and Union Territories.

Subject: Providing a piece of cotton cloth/duster to polling parties for removing ink from the thumb of illiterate voters after getting their thumb impression in Form-17-A – Regarding.

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware that illiterate voters are required to put their left hand thumb impression on Form-17A (Register for Voters) to record their presence. There may be possibility that some of them may touch the Balloting Unit with the left hand thumb while they cast their votes, which may leave thumb impression of ink on the Candidate Button or Cabinet of the Ballot Unit. There may also be possibility of violation of secrecy of vote, if any illiterate voter cast his/her vote using left hand thumb.

The Commission has directed that a piece of cotton cloth/duster shall be provided to the polling team. The official maintaining Form-17A at the polling station shall be instructed to advise the voters, who put thumb impression in Form-17A, to remove/clean ink from the thumb by using cloth/duster.

Yours faithfully,

(Dilip K Varma)