

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 470/2008/EPS

Dated : 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

To

The Chief Electoral Officer of  
All States/Union Territories.

**Sub: Counting of vote for General/Bye-election to the House of People/State Legislative Assembly-ensuring transparency – regarding.**

I am directed to refer to the Commission's earlier instruction issued vide letters no. 470/2007/PLN-I dated: 11.01.2007 and 29.08.2007 on the above subject.

In para 17 of the Commission's aforesaid letter dated 29.08.2007, it is mentioned that –

“At the closure of each round, the Observer would randomly select any two EVM control units from amongst the Control Units of the concerned round which has been counted. He would then direct the counting staff specifically deployed for this purpose by the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer through random selection to independently note down from the Control units selected, the details of the votes polled as indicated by the machine. These details he would then compare with the details provided by the officials in the table wise result to check for any discrepancy between the two. Care must be taken that the staff assigned for random checking is not aware of the details provided in the table wise result”.

Further, in para 26 of the Commission's aforesaid letter dated 29.08.2007, it is mentioned that the additional staff will note down the details of votes exhibited by the EVMs being counted in each round in that Table in a pre-printed statement on which there will be space for noting

down the details. They will put their signature at the end of the statement and shall hand over the statement to the Observer after each round.

The Commission desires that random checking of 2 EVM (control units) after each round of counting should be done seriously by the Observer as per the instructions issued by the Commission. The outcome of said random checking should be confirmed by the observer in the enclosed proforma.(ANNEXURE-I). The Commission further desires that after completion of counting, the observer should send a final report in the prescribed checklist. A copy is enclosed herewith.(ANNEXURE-II).

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the letter.

Yours faithfully,

**(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)**  
**UNDER SECRETARY**

**(ANNEXURE-I).**

**1. No. and Name of Assembly Constituency-**

**2. Polling Station No. -**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Round No.</b>	<b>Control Unit No.</b>		<b>Table No. Selected for Random Checking</b>	<b>Whether candidate wise votes counted by the counting supervisors/ Assistants and additional staff tally with the votes counted at random checking by the staff drawn from reserved pool by the observer Yes/No</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
		I	II			

**(ANNEXURE-II).**

**Check list of final Report of the observer to be sent to the Commission after counting.**

1. Whether arrangements for counting has been done as per the instruction of the Commission's letters No. 470/2007/PLN-I dated. 11.1.2007 and 29.08.2007? (yes/No)
2. If No, what are the discrepancies ?
3. Whether randomization of counting staff was done as per the instruction of the Commission in the morning? (yes/No)
4. Whether pairing of counting supervisor and counting assistant was done as per the instruction of the Commission? (yes/No)
5. Whether Micro-Observer was present? (yes/No)
6. Whether postal ballot papers were counted before the counting of votes in EVM\*? (Yes/No)
7. Whether after each round or counting, random checking of 2(two) EVMs was done by the observer? (Yes/No)
8. Whether the figures at random checking done by staff drawn from reserve pool tally with the figures of round wise counting provided by the counting supervisor/counting assistant? (Yes/No)
9. Whether the signature of the counting agents taken in part –II of form 17 C? (yes/No)
10. Whether the total votes shown in part-II of form 17 C tally with the votes counted in EVM? (Yes/No)
11. Whether the counting agents of the candidates were present at the time of counting? (Yes/No)
12. Whether the seating arrangements of the counting agents were done as per the Commission's instruction? (Yes/No)
13. Whether Videography of counting was done ? (yes/No)
14. Whether there was any demand for recounting or re-totaling? (Yes/No)

15. Whether any significant incident occurred during counting of votes? If yes, give details
16. Whether candidates/ counting agents were present at the time of declaration of result? (yes/No)
17. Whether the counting was started in time? If not, give remarks.
18. Total No. of rounds counted in each assembly constituency.

\*

<b>No. of postal ballot</b>	<b>No. of postal ballot found invalid for counting</b>