

IMMEDIATE
By Special Messenger/Camp Bag

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.479/INST/2012-CC&BE

Dated: 7th July, 2012

To

1. The Returning Officer for the Presidential Election and Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, Room No. 29, Parliament House, New Delhi.
2. The Assistant Returning Officer for Presidential Election (Through Chief Electoral Officers).

Sub: - Presidential Election - 2012 - Videography of critical events including poll proceedings - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission has decided that videography of critical events will be got done by the Returning Office and Assistant Returning Officers during the ongoing Presidential Election, 2012.

For the purposes of videography, preferably the services of a videographer who belongs to Government Ministry/Department shall be used. If the services of any private videographer have to be used, in any exceptional cases, the Assistant Returning Officers shall take due care to verify the credibility of the agency and also of the individual concerned before engaging them for this purpose. The videographer shall be issued with an identification badge like other officials deployed on election duty which he/she will display prominently on his/her person while on duty.

2. The video coverage shall include the following among other aspects and visuals:
 - i. Storage, for the purpose of poll, of ballot box/ballot papers, and other election material if any, on receipt from the Commission/Chief Electoral Officer, in the strong room and sealing of the strong room.
 - ii. Opening of strong room for shifting the ballot box and ballot papers, etc., to the place of poll on the day of poll.

- iii. Actual setting of the place of poll just before the commencement of poll indicating the placement of voting compartment(s), ballot box, seating arrangement for the Presiding Officer and other officials, representatives of the candidates and the Commission's observer, and arrangements for the waiting electors outside the actual place of poll and for entrance and exit of electors into/from the place of poll. The visual should clearly establish the placement of voting compartment and other seating arrangement from the point of view of maintenance of ballot secrecy.
- iv. Inspection of empty ballot box before the commencement of poll in the presence of observer, and candidates' representatives and the process of sealing of the ballot box for the purpose of taking the poll.
- v. Actual sequence of polling process – the arrival of elector, marking the list of electors, signing on the list, issue of ballot paper, entry to voting compartment and deposit of ballot paper into the ballot box and elector's exit. However, this need not be done with reference to each and every voter. This is only to get a visual idea of polling process at a particular place of poll.
- vi. Sealing of ballot box and other election records at the closure of poll and the shifting of the polled ballot box etc. to the strong room.
- vii. Closure of Strong room.

3. Besides, during the course of poll in case any incident takes place that could impact the orderly and smooth conduct of poll including adherence to the polling procedures that shall also be covered in video. On this account, the ARO and the Observer have got an active role to play. In case of any such incident they shall direct the videographer personally and ensure that the incident is videographed.

4. The observer shall personally monitor the process of video coverage. However, under no circumstances the video coverage shall result in compromising the ballot secrecy even remotely. The videographer while covering the polling process should use long and mid-long shots, pan shots and should not focus on any individual voter and he should not use zooming techniques to focus particularly when a voter is marking his vote on the ballot paper.

5. After the coverage as above is over, the Cassette/CD/DVD(DVDs are preferable) shall be secured in a separate envelope in the presence of observer and the envelope should be sealed. On the envelope "Video Material" with the name of

the State shall be super scribed. The sealed envelope shall be sent to the Returning Officer alongwith the polled ballot box and other election records.

6. At the time of opening the strong room, in the presence of the observer, before dispatching the polled ballot box and other election records to New Delhi that event also shall be videographed. The earlier video coverage material having been already sealed and secured, this event should be videographed in a separate CD/DVD. The second video material may be secured separately and sent immediately to the Returning Officer by Registered Post separately.

Yours faithfully,

(K.N. BHAR)
SECRETARY

Copy to Chief Electoral Officers of all States, NCT of Delhi & UT of Puducherry.