

IMMEDIATELY
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 481/2012/CC&BE

Dated : 24th July, 2012

To

The Returning Officer for
Vice-Presidential Election-cum-
Secretary General, Lok Sabha,
Parliament House,
New Delhi.

Subject: Vice-Presidential Election, 2012- Videography of critical events including poll proceeding- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission has decided that videography of critical events will be got done by the Returning Officer during the current Vice-Presidential Election, 2012.

For the purpose of videography, preferably the services of a videographer who belongs to Government Ministry/Department shall be used. If the service of any private videographer has to be used, in any exceptional cases, the Returning Officer 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 (es)/ballot papers, and other election material, if any, on receipt from the Commission, in the strong room and sealing of the strong room.

(ii) Opening of strong room for shifting the ballot box (es) 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 compartments, ballot box (es), seating arrangement for the Presiding Officer and other officials, representatives of the candidates and the Commission's Observers, and arrangements for the waiting electors outside the actual place of poll and for entrance and exit of electors into/rom the place of poll. The visual should clearly establish the placement of voting compartments and other seating arrangements from the point of view of maintenance of ballot secrecy.

(iv) Inspection of empty ballot box (es) before the commencement of poll in the presence of Observer, and candidates' representatives and the process of sealing of the ballot boxes for the purpose of taking the poll.

(v) Actual sequence of polling process- the arrival of elector, marking the list of electors, signing of 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 elector. This is only to get a visual idea of polling process at the place of poll.

(vi) Sealing of ballot box and other election records at the closure of poll.

3. Besides, during the course of poll in case of 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 Returning Officer and the Observers 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 Observers 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 Observers and the envelope should be sealed. On the envelope "Video Material" shall be super scribed.

Yours faithfully,

(K. N. BHAR)
SECRETARY