

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

**By Special Messenger/Camp Bag
Vice-Presidential Election-2017**

निर्वाचन सदन
NIRVACHAN SADAN
अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली- 110001
ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No.481/ECI/INST/FUNC/BIEN/2017

Dated: 5th July, 2017

To,

The Returning Officer for the
Vice-Presidential Election and
Secretary General, Rajya Sabha,
Parliament House,
New Delhi.

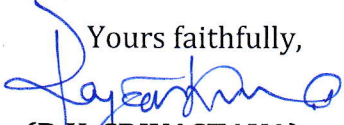
Subject: Marking of Votes-Supply of Instrument at the Place of Poll.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the manner and procedure for recording of votes by electors at the election to the office of President and Vice-President are provided in rules 17 and 18 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974. No particular instrument has been prescribed under the above rules for marking the vote by an elector at the place of polling, as has been done in the case of elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies. In order to maintain secrecy of voting and to avoid the possibility of identification of voter at the time of counting of votes at the ensuing Vice-Presidential Election, the Commission, as a measure of uniformity in the marking of votes, has directed that each elector should be handed over personally by the Presiding Officer or an officer duly authorized by him a specially designed pen for marking his preferences on ballot paper, when he is supplied ballot paper under rule 14 of above Rules. The pen so supplied to the elector shall be taken back from him after he has cast his vote and inserted his marked ballot paper into the ballot box, for supplying it to the next elector.

2. For the above purpose, the Election Commission will provide to you the required number of said pens with **violet ink** so as to ensure that preferences are marked in violet ink only and with that pen alone. Any ballot paper marked with any other pen, ball point pen, etc., may be liable to rejection under rule 31(1)(d) of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

3. The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

(R.K. SRIVASTAVA)
Sr. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY