

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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No.464/INST-VS/2014-EPS

Dated: 21st March, 2014

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
all the States & Union Territories.

Sub: Distribution of Photo Voter Slips to the Electors by BLOs – reg.

Ref: The Commission's instructions –

- (i) 464/INST/2011/EPS, dated 18th February, 2011
- (ii) 464/INST/2011/EPS, dated 19th March, 2011
- (iii) 464/INST/2013-EPS, dated 14th June, 2013

Madam / Sir,

The Commission has issued instructions from time to time regarding distribution of Photo Voter Slips to voters. In the light of experience gained in the past and in order to streamline the mechanism of distribution of Photo Voter Slips and bring in greater transparency, following instructions are being issued for the process to be followed for distribution of Photo Voter Slips:

- a) The Photo Voter Slips shall be printed on a good quality paper, ensuring clear entries and photographs of voters appearing thereon. The District Election Officer (DEO)/ Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) shall ensure that the Photo Voter Slips are printed by following/ meeting all possible safeguards.
- b) **Only one (1) set of Photo Voter Slips would be printed** for the registered electors of each Assembly Constituency, duly authenticated by the ERO, for distribution through the BLOs.

- c) A pre-printed register of voters shall be given to each BLO along with the Photo Voter Slips of the electors of his/ her Polling Station area. **The Photo Voter Slips should be issued under original signatures of the BLOs.** The BLO shall give the Photo Voter Slip either to the registered voter or to an adult member of the voter's family who is himself/ herself a voter. The BLO shall obtain the signature or thumb impression of the person to whom the Photo Voter Slip is delivered, as an acknowledgement of having received the Photo Voter Slip. The register shall be deposited by the BLOs to the ERO before the day of Poll.
- d) The marking of Absent/ Shifted/ Dead (ASD) Voters shall also be done on the Photo Voter Slips. These Photo Voter Slips may be stamped with a note "**ASD Voters – You will have to bring additional proof of identification such as- EPIC, any of the documents notified by ECI, on the day of Poll**". The Presiding Officers may be directed to verify such Voters through any additional document along with the Photo Voter Slip.
- e) **The Returning Officer (RO) of the Constituency shall prepare a schedule for distribution of Photo Voter Slips by the BLOs.** A copy of this schedule shall be given by the RO to the Political Parties, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of all recognized political parties, if they have been appointed and contesting Candidates and their Agents, under acknowledgement.
- f) The BLAs of political parties/ Candidates' Agents **may accompany** the BLOs during the distribution work. When the BLA/ Candidates' Agent accompanies the BLO for distribution, their signatures should also be obtained on the register, as a token of having seen the distribution process to genuine voters. Strict action should be taken against the BLO if a complaint is received and it is proved that he/ she did not share the schedule of distribution of Photo Voter Slips with BLAs or contesting candidates or their agents or did not allow them to accompany him/ her during the distribution work.
- g) The DEOs shall ensure that BLOs maintain **absolute neutrality** during the distribution of Photo Voter Slips.

