

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 51/8/VVPAT/2017-EMS

Dated: 11th January, 2018

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Instructions on use of EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail system (VVPAT) - Regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Commission's letter of even number, dated 3rd November, 2017, whereby a clarification was issued regarding replacement of EVMs and VVPATs during Commissioning of EVMs & VVPATs, Dispersal of Polling Parties or during Mock-Poll at polling station any BU or CU does not work properly, whether the complete set of BU, CU & VVPAT is to be replaced or only the unit concerned i.e. BU or CU.

In this regard it was clarified that in case any BU or CU does not work properly during commissioning of EVMs & VVPATs, dispersal of Polling Parties or during Mock-Poll at polling station, the following action shall be taken

- i) In case the BU does not work properly, **only the defective BU is to be replaced** from reserve BU.
- ii) In case the CU does not work properly, **only the defective CU is to be replaced** from reserve CU.

The list of replaced BU, CU or VVPATs shall be provided to the contesting candidates or their election agents and necessary entries shall be made in the ETS.

The Commission has reconsidered the first para of Para 2.2. (Handling Contingencies During Poll) of the Commission's letter of even number, dated 5th December, 2017 i.e. "In case the CU or the BU does not work properly, replacement of the whole EVM including CU, BU and VVPAT is required. No mock poll is required to be taken" and the same stands deleted.

Now, the Commission has issued the following directions:

- (a) **In case the CU or the BU does not work properly during actual poll, replacement of the whole EVM including CU, BU and VVPAT is required. However, in such case only one vote to each contesting candidate including NOTA should be polled in the mock poll.**
- (b) After the mock poll, Presiding Officer will ascertain the result in the CU, count the VVPAT paper slips in the presence of the polling agents and confirm that the results tally for each candidate.

- (c) All mock poll data in CU and VVPAT paper slips from VVPAT must be removed by the Presiding Officer and the empty drop box verified by the Polling Agents.
- (d) The mock poll VVPAT paper slips, should be stamped on their back side with rubber stamp having inscription **“MOCK POLL SLIP”**, thereafter these mock poll VVPAT paper slips shall be kept in an envelope made of thick black paper and sealed with the seal of the Presiding Officer. The sample image of the said stamp is as under:



(The dimensions of the stamp to be used for the purpose should be 3cms X 1.5 cms)

- (e) The Presiding Officer and polling agents must put their signatures on the envelope. The number and name of the polling station, number and name of Assembly Constituency, date of poll and the words **“VVPAT paper slips pertaining to Mock Poll conducted in case of replacement of whole set of EVM and VVPAT”** shall be written on the envelope.
- (f) This envelope must be kept in the special plastic box for mock poll and sealed with a pink paper seal placed all around in such a manner that opening of the box will require breaking of the seal.
- (g) The number and name of the polling station, number and name of Assembly Constituency and the date of poll shall be written on the plastic box.
- (h) The Presiding Officer and Polling Agents must put their signatures on the pink paper seal and keep the box along with other documents relating to elections. Thereafter, Presiding Officer will sign the another Mock Poll Certificate and seal the CU and VVPAT.
- (i) The drop box of VVPAT should be sealed with an address tag before the actual poll starts.

NOTE: In case of replacement of only VVPAT during actual poll. No mock poll will be conducted.

The above instructions shall be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(Madhusudan Gupta)
Under Secretary

Copy to: -

1. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, Karnataka.
2. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.