

**"Elections / Most Urgent"**

**" By Fax/ e-mail/Post"**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS.F) DEPARTMENT

Memo No.217/Elecs.F/2014-33

Dated:10.5.2014.

**Sub:- Counting of votes for General / Bye-elections to the  
House of the People / State Legislative Assemblies -  
Clarifications -Communicated - Reg.**

Ref:- E.C.I. Lr.No.470/INST/2012-EPS, dt.8.5.2014.

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A copy of the reference cited is communicated to all the Collectors and District Election Officers and the Commissioner, G.H.M.C. & D.E.O., Hyderabad and they are requested to follow the **clarifications regarding Counting of votes** issued by the ECI in the reference cited.

This clarification shall also be communicated to all the Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers / Observers and all concerned for compliance.

V.VENKATESWARA RAO,  
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,  
Andhra Pradesh.

To

All the District Collectors & D.E.Os(w.e.)

The Commissioner, G.H.M.C., & D.E.O., Hyderabad (w.e)

**Copy to:**

All the Returning Officers of Parliamentary & Assembly Constituencies (w.e) through the D.E.Os., concerned.

The Observers **through** the D.E.Os., concerned.

// FORWARDED: BY ORDER //

  
SECTION OFFICER

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.470/INST/2014-EPS

Dated 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of  
All States and Union Territories.

**Subject:-** Counting of votes for General / Bye-elections to the House of the People/ State  
Legislative Assemblies – clarifications – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that certain doubts / clarifications have been raised in the context of the comprehensive instructions issued on 30/4/2014 for counting of votes polled in EVM and Postal Ballot Paper by various CEOs/participants who attended the training on the subject matter arranged at IIIDEM on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

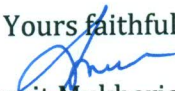
2. The following clarifications are issued in order to ensure that the counting procedure is followed without any confusion by the officials entrusted with the job. The doubts expressed and clarification on each of the issues is given below for facility of reference by all concerned:-

Sl.No.	Doubts/questions	Clarifications
1	Whether councilors, sarpanch, ward members and other local body chief/head can be appointed as counting agents.	There is no prohibition to their appointment as counting agents subject to the condition that they are not provided security by the Govt.
2	At what stage of recounting of votes in EVM or of VVPAT slips should be done, after the particular round is over or after all the rounds are completed?	After all the rounds are completed.
3	The counting of PB is to be taken up first and after half an hour, EVM counting can start. Whether this is necessary only in respect of counting place where postal ballots are counted or in all counting places of the Parliamentary Constituency?	Only in respect of the counting place where the PBs are counted, the commencement of counting of votes polled in EVM can start 30 minutes after start of PB counting. The commencement of counting of votes polled in EVM in respect of other assembly segments of the PC need not wait if they are held in different counting place.
4	Whether the requirement of deferring the penultimate round of EVM counting in the event of PB counting still continuing will be applicable in all counting places of a Parliamentary Constituency? Should counting of last round be withheld in that room (i.e. of that AC segment) or counting of all the AC segments that is to say entire PC is to be withheld and recommence after counting of PB is over.	In such case there is no need to withhold the counting of votes in EVM of all the AC segments of PC. Only counting of votes in EVMs of the counting place where PB counting is going on shall be deferred.



5	Whether the RO and the AROs in-charge of counting of EVM of assembly segments can be allowed to carry mobile phones inside the counting hall?	They can carry mobile phones in silent mode inside the counting hall.
6	Can a candidate appoint NRI as his counting agent?	There is no prohibition in appointing an NRI who is a citizen of India as counting agent.
7	As per the Commission's instructions on counting of votes issued on 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2014 Part-II of Form 17C, pre-printed with names of all contesting candidates, is to be supplied to each counting table during each round. What will happen to the Part-II of Form 17C which has been kept with EVMs by the Presiding Officers after close of Poll?	The first copy of pre-printed Part-II of Form 17C should be stapled with the Part-I kept with the EVM. This copy will be handed over to the RO/ARO, as the case may be, after each round.
8	Whether the photocopy of carbon copy of Part-II of Form 17C, signed by the counting agents is to be signed by RO/ARO?	Being a carbon copy of Part-II of Form-17C prepared at the counting table, this will have the signature of counting supervisor and the counting agents present at the table.
9	Whether an application for recounting can be presented to the ARO in-charge of the counting place for an assembly segment or before the RO only?	In the cases where the counting places are in different locations, application for re-count in respect of an assembly segment located in a place other than the counting place where the RO is placed can be presented before the ARO supervising the counting in that assembly segment. The concerned ARO may deal with application for re-count with the approval of the RO as it would be difficult for candidates/agents located in other counting locations to reach the RO's location in time to make application for re-count.
10	What action is to be taken in case there is discrepancy in total votes written in Part-I of Form 17C and what is displayed on EVM at the time of counting?	Any discrepancy in the votes recorded in the EVM and noted in Part-I of Form 17C has to be reported to the Commission in the prescribed format for further order and the result not to be ascertained till a clarification is received from the Commission.
11	If problem arises with one of the EVMs during counting of votes. What action should RO take? Whether announcement of that particular round is to be withheld or of that EVM only?	The announcement of result for that round, excluding the EVM which develops snag, will be made.
12	Some of the ROs had also raised the point whether counting of postal ballot paper can be taken in an adjoining hall as that will be convenient considering that the number of postal ballot is very large in many cases.	<b>No as per existing instructions</b>

13	<p>As per ECI norms, ideally not more than 500 PBs are to be counted on Ros table. In such situation to prevent delay in overall counting process, can RO make an arrangement for separate hall adjacent to the hall where EVM counting is being done, for counting of PBs by ARO under overall supervision of RO.</p>	<p>The intention behind this instruction is to ensure that a manageable number of PB is taken up for counting in a table at a time. In case the total number of polled PBs in a constituency is say between 500 and 700, then the RO need not necessarily put a second table for counting of PB and he can count all the PBs in one table. However, in case the RO has sufficient space in the counting hall, then he can put up another table and distribute the PBs in both the tables as far as possible equitably.</p> <p>Similarly, in case the polled PB in a constituency is 5000 or more then the RO can put up more than 4 tables for counting of PB subject to availability of space in the counting halls vis-à-vis availability of sufficient no. of Gazetted Officers required to function as ARO, counting supervisor/counting assistant in each table.</p> <p>In case there is shortage of space for keeping more than 3 or 4 tables, then he can complete the counting by taking up manageable no. of PBs in each table at a time and repeating the same exercise in each table more than once as per requirement.</p> <p><b>Imp:</b>The CEOs are required to assess their requirement of additional AROs for PB counting and send their proposals to the ECI for approval and issue of Notification.</p>
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Yours faithfully,  
  
 (Sumit Mukherjee)  
 Secretary