

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, TELANGANA STATE
SOUTH 'H' BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, HYDERABAD.

Memo.No.2366/Elec.D/2019-71

Dated: 22.05.2019

Sub:- Elections – General Election to Lok Sabha, 2019 – Counting of Votes through ETPBs, Postal Ballot Papers, EVMs, VVPAT slips, Carrying of Mobile Phones inside Counting Hall etc. – Instructions and clarifications of the ECI – Communicated - Reg.

- Ref: 1. From the ECI., New Delhi, Lr.No.485/Comp/Gen.Elec/2019, dt.21st May, 2019.
2. From the ECI., New Delhi, Lr.No.485/Comp/IT/Instructions/ETPBS/2019, dt.21st May, 2019.
3. From the ECI., New Delhi, Lr.No.470/INST/2019/EPS, dt.21st May, 2019.
4. From the ECI., New Delhi, Lr.No.51/8/7/2019-EMPS, dt.21st May, 2019.
5. From the ECI., New Delhi, Lr.No.464/ INST/ EPS-2019, dt.21st May, 2019.

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Copies of the references cited are sent herewith to all the Collectors and Returning Officers of all the Parliamentary Constituencies / All Counting Observers wherein the ECI has issued instructions on (i) Pre Counting of ETPBS (ii) Instructions for Counting of Postal Ballots (iii) Instructions on Counting of Votes (iv) Issues regarding counting of VVPAT slips (v) Carrying of Mobile phones by ROs/AROs inside the Counting Hall

2. All the Collectors & Returning Officers of the Parliamentary Constituencies / all Counting Observers are, therefore, requested to follow the above instructions scrupulously.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
E.O. & PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVT.

To

All the Collectors & Returning Officers of Parliamentary Constituencies (w.es)

The District Collector, Hyderabad & Returning Officer for 9-Hyderabad Parliamentary Constituency.(w.e.)

The Joint Collector, Hyderabad & Returning Officer for 8-Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituency.(w.e)

All Assistant Returning Officers of Parliamentary Constituencies. (w.e.)

All Counting Observers through the Collectors & R.Os of Parliamentary Constituencies.(w.e)

The Director General of Police, Telangana State, Hyderabad (w.e)

Mr. Sudhakar, to place on website

Copy to:

Sf/Sc

// FORWARDED: BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER

By Email

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI- 110001

No. 485/Comp/Gen Elec/2019
To

Dated: 21st May, 2019

The Chief Electoral Officers of
all States and Union Territories

Subject: - General Election to Lok Sabha, 2019- Pre Counting of ETPBs- Regarding

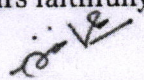
Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that as per schedule, the counting of votes including ETPBs for Lok Sabha 2019 alongwith Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and declared Bye Elections will be held on 23rd May, 2019. 5 dedicated help desks have been set up in the Secretariat of the ECI alongwith 27 dedicated helplines at C-DAC Headquarter in Pune to provide support, if required. (Details are attached)

For any query/issues relating to procedural matters in connection with Pre Counting of ETPBs, the Help Lines at Nirvachan Sadan may be contacted. For any technical issues, the C-DAC Help Lines at Pune may be contacted. As regards Network issues, if any, the same may be resolved in consultation with the Chief General Managers of BSNL located at Bangaluru and New Delhi (lists enclosed)

These help desk will be operationalized from 6.00 A.M on 23rd May, 2019 to till completions of Counting Process.

Yours faithfully,


(AJAY KUMAR VERMA)
UNDER SECRETARY

3

State wise Helpline Number for ETPBS Pre-Counting (Procedural Support) - Nirvachan Sandan, New Delhi		
STATE NAME	Group	Helpline Number
ANDHRA PRADESH	1	011-23052182
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		
ASSAM		
BIHAR		
GOA		
GUJARAT		
HARYANA		
HIMACHAL PRADESH	2	011-23052183
JAMMU AND KASHMIR		
KARNATAKA		
KERALA		
MADHYA PRADESH		
MAHARASHTRA		
MANIPUR		
MEGHALAYA	3	011-23052184
MIZORAM		
NAGALAND		
ODISHA		
PUNJAB		
RAJASTHAN		
SIKKIM		
TAMIL NADU	4	011-23052185
TRIPURA		
UTTAR PRADESH		
WEST BENGAL		
CHHATTISGARH		
JHARKHAND		
CHANDIGARH		
TELANGANA	5	011-23052186
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS		
UTTARAKHAND		
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI		
DAMAN AND DIU		
NCT OF DELHI		
LAKSHADWEEP		
PUDUCHERRY		

**State wise Technical Helpline Number for ETPBS Pre-Counting
C-DAC HQ**

STATE NAME	Group	Helpline Number
UTTAR PRADESH	1	02025503115
BIHAR	2	02025503117
RAJASTHAN	3	02025503118
MAHARASHTRA	4	02025503121
PUNJAB	5	02025503126
WEST BENGAL	6	02025503130
HARYANA	7	02025503131
UTTARAKHAND	8	02025503132
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	9	02025503133
NCT OF DELHI		
MADHYA PRADESH	10	02025503139
TELANGANA		
HIMACHAL PRADESH	11	02025503141
CHHATTISGARH		
TAMIL NADU	12	02025503146
MANIPUR		
ANDHRA PRADESH	13	02025503147
GUJARAT		
ASSAM	14	02025503149
JHARKHAND		
KERALA	15	02025503151
TRIPURA		
NAGALAND		
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		
ODISHA	16	02025503154
MIZORAM		
MEGHALAYA		
SIKKIM		
CHANDIGARH	17	02025503159
KARNATAKA		
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS		
GOA		
PUDUCHERRY		
LAKSHADWEEP		
DAMAN AND DIU		
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI		

PC wise Technical Helpline Number for ETPBS Pre-Counting - C-DAC HQ

State	PC Name	Group	Helpline Number
S09-JAMMU AND KASHMIR	6-Jammu	1	02025503502
S28-UTTARAKHAND	2-Garhwal	2	02025503503
S24-UTTAR PRADESH	11-Baghpat		
S20-RAJASTHAN	4-Jhunjhunu	3	02025503524
S14-MANIPUR	2-Outer manipur		
S28-UTTARAKHAND	3-Almora	4	02025503526
S28-UTTARAKHAND	1-Tehri Garhwal		
S07-HARYANA	8-Bhiwani-Mahendragarh	5	02025503540
S24-UTTAR PRADESH	72-Ballia		
S12-MADHYA PRADESH	2-BHIND		
S08-HIMACHAL PRADESH	3-Hamirpur	6	02025503550
S08-HIMACHAL PRADESH	2-Mandi		
S24-UTTAR PRADESH	75-Ghazipur		
S07-HARYANA	7-Rohtak	7	02025503555
S20-RAJASTHAN	8-Alwar		
S01-ANDHRA PRADESH	2-Srikakulam		
S19-PUNJAB	3-Khadoor Sahib		
S19-PUNJAB	1-Gurdaspur	8	02025503556
S04-BIHAR	32-Arrah		
S20-RAJASTHAN	5-Sikar		
S08-HIMACHAL PRADESH	1-Kangra	9	02025503559
S09-JAMMU AND KASHMIR	5-Udhampur		
S19-PUNJAB	5-Hoshiarpur		
S03-ASSAM	5-Kokrajhar	10	02025503561
S25-WEST BENGAL	4-Darjeeling		
S07-HARYANA	9-Gurgaon		
S04-BIHAR	33-Buxar		
S28-UTTARAKHAND	4-Nainital-udhamsingh Nagar		

वि. न. शुक्ला
निदेशक (सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी)
V.N. SHUKLA
DIRECTOR (IT)



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

D.O. No. 485/Comp/Misc/2019

Dated: 20th May, 2019

Respected Sirs & Madam

BSNL has been sensitized to maintain vigilance and provide necessary support for keeping connectivity proper for counting day on 23rd May, 2019, till counting is completed.

Based on the request, BSNL sensitized its control room at Bangalore and appointed officers at GM rank for their availability to handle any issue, which would be reported by Election offices from States & UTs. The contact details are as under

BSNL Control Room Bangalore- 08025808831

Sh. Ezil Buddhan PGM (NOC) Bangalore- 9448010361

Sh. Manoj W. Hedau DGM (SSTP) Bangalore- 9423007800

Sh. Lakshminarayana SDE (VPN) Bangalore- 9449000200

Sh. P.K.Sahoo SDE (mobile) Bangalore- 9449803875

BSNL BBNW IDC New Delhi- 01123324224

Sh. U.R.Bhover DGM (IDC) New Delhi- 9449457500

Sh. Bhoop Singh AGM (IDC) New Delhi- 9868285262

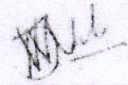
Sh. Yashveer Singh SDE (IDC) New Delhi- 9416026139

Sh. Ashish Karan JTO (IDC) New Delhi- 9422013880

CEOs are requested to ensure that network related issues, if any, faced during counting can be communicated to BSNL by DEOs only. CEOs would like to ensure that the above numbers are not so popularized that everybody starts calling these Sr. Officers, to avoid bottleneck on their phone itself.

With personal regards.

Yours sincerely,


(V.N. Shukla)

Chief Electoral Officer of
All States & UTs

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग सचिवालय
SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
NirvachanSadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 21st May, 2019

No. 485/Comp/IT/Instructions/ETPBS/2019

To,
The Chief Electoral Officers of
All the States & UTs

Subject: - Instructions for Counting of Postal ballots -reg.

Sir/Madam,

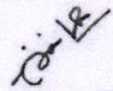
I am directed to state that counting of votes, including postal ballot votes in connection with the General/Bye Elections to the Lok Sabha 2019 and some States assemblies will be taken up all over the country on 23rd May, 2019. For counting day the set up of the servers at data centre has been done as per the attachment. It is done keeping in mind the load balancing so that counting process will not be hampered technically. Since counting of postal ballots for General Elections to Parliament, and to some State assemblies and number of Bye elections are to be taken up on same day, all the three elections ETPBS data has been segregated and 3 URLs for respective counting has been provided as below.

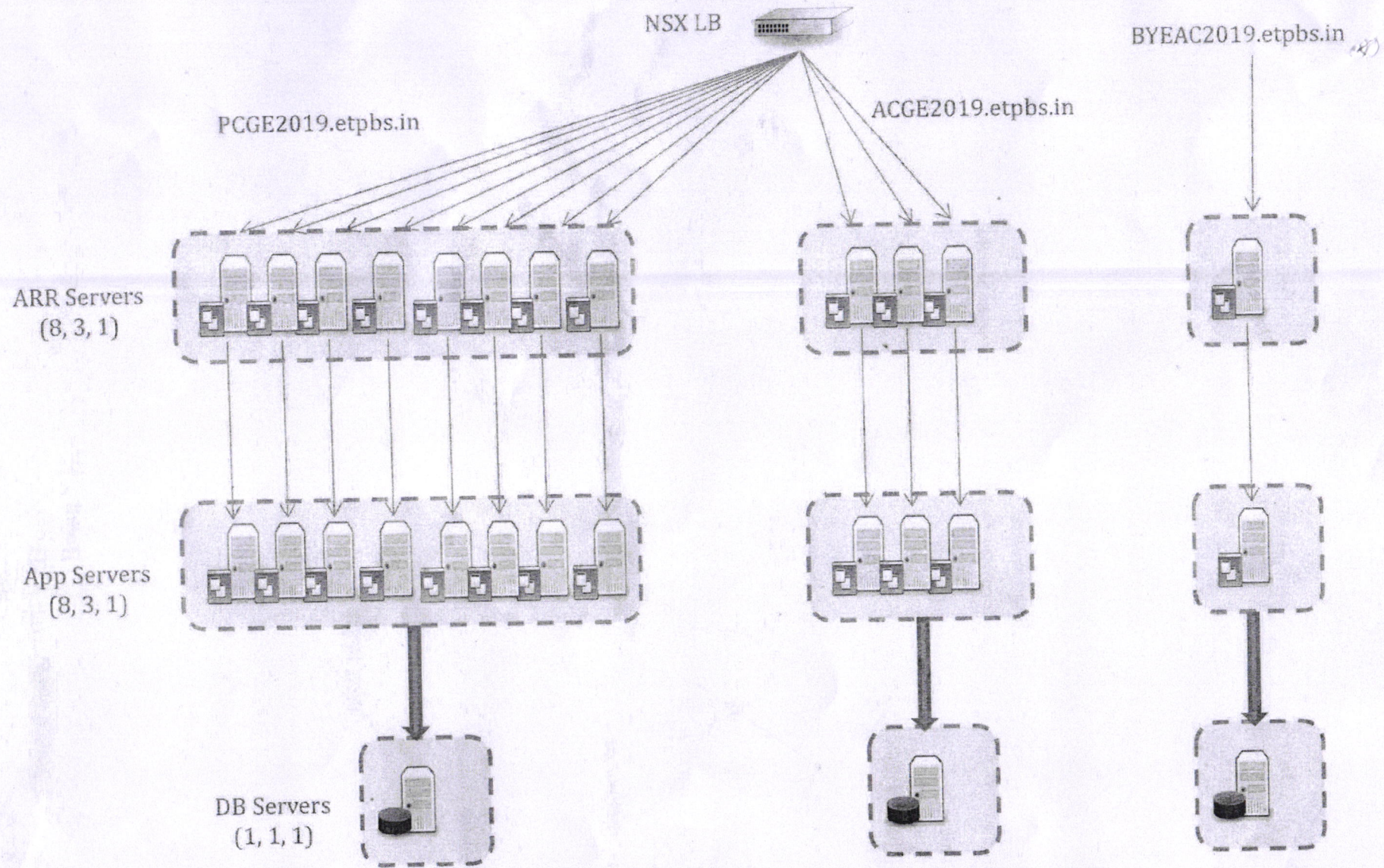
- 1) <https://pcge2019.etpbs.in>
(Logins of only Returning Officer & the Counting Supervisor of the Parliamentary Constituencies (PC) - GE 2019 will be ENABLED)
- 2) <https://acge2019.etpbs.in>
(Logins of only Returning Officer & the Counting Supervisor of the Assembly Constituencies (AC) - GE 2019 will be ENABLED)
- 3) <https://byeac2019.etpbs.in>
(Logins of only Returning Officer & the Counting Supervisor of the Bye-Elections to Assembly Constituencies (AC) - GE 2019 will be ENABLED)

ROs need to be educated to direct respective counting supervisors to use specific URL, as general URL www.etpbs.in will not work for counting.

It is also directed that after completion of pre-counting by all counting supervisors, the counting process for accepted Postal ballots shall begin. There is no need of scanning QR code on the ballot.

Yours faithfully,


(AJAY KUMAR VERMA)
UNDER SECRETARY



13

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.470/INST/2019/EPS

Dated: 21st May, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All the States/Union Territories.

Subject: General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 2019 and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim - Counting of Votes -reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the following paras of the 'Hand book for Returning Officer February 2019':

1. **As per Para. 15.5.1:** The upper limit of 14 Counting Tables(excluding the Table of RO) in a counting Hall can be increased only with prior approval of the Commission.
2. **As per Para. 15.5.3:** One of the Counting Tables inside the Counting Hall shall be earmarked by RO a VVPAT Counting Booth(VCB) for counting of VVPAT paper slips.
3. **As per Para. 15.5.4:** In case the counting of votes is to be done for PC and LA election simultaneously, then half of the counting tables in a counting hall shall be allotted for counting of votes from polled EVMs for PC and half tables for AC poll and the counting agents sit accordingly.

Now, the Commission has reviewed the instructions & has directed that in case the counting of votes is to be done for PC and LA election simultaneously, the following instructions are to be followed:

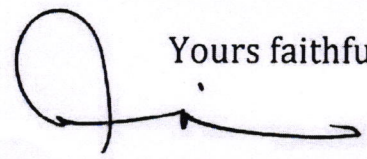
- a) For the counting of votes for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, if separate Counting Hall for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemble is available, the same can be used, as the RO for PC and AC are different.
- b) In case no such hall is available, as per the existing instructions of the Commission, half of the counting tables in a counting hall shall be allotted for counting of votes for polled EVMs for PC and half tables for AC poll and the counting agents sit accordingly. Since, the EVMs and VVPATs strong rooms are kept separately for each Parliamentary Constituencies and Legislative

17

Assemblies, in such cases, the path to take the EVMs/VVPATs to the Counting Hall and take them back to the Strong Room should be kept separate. However, the hall may be bifurcated into two partitions with wire-mesh.

- c) In case, counting of votes to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly is held simultaneously, separate tables should be arranged for VVPAT Counting Booth (VCB) for PC and AC elections.

Receipt of these instructions may kindly be acknowledged.



Yours faithfully,

(SANJEEV KUMAR PRASAD)
UNDER SECRETARY

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 51/8/7/2019-EMPS

Dated: 21st May, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Issues regarding counting of VVPAT slips: Non-deletion of mock poll data from the Control Unit or non-removal of mock poll slips from VVPAT- counting of votes thereof and mismatch in Mandatory Verification process- regarding.

Sir,

In continuation of existing instructions on the captioned subject, I am directed to state that during the past and ongoing General Elections to Lok Sabha and simultaneous elections to State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, 2019, there have been some instances of human error in properly deleting the Mock poll data from the Control Units and removal of mock-poll slips from the VVPAT at some polling stations. In some cases, the Presiding Officers either failed to delete the data of mock poll from the Control Unit or failed to remove the VVPAT paper slips pertaining to mock poll from the drop box of the VVPAT.

2. The Commission has considered the matter and directed that the following procedure shall be adopted during counting in all such cases:

a) In all pre-identified cases (on poll day, during scrutiny of documents on P+1 day etc), where mock poll is either not erased from the Control Unit or VVPAT paper slips pertaining to mock poll not removed (fully or partially), the concerned Control Unit (s) shall be kept aside during counting of votes i.e. these polling stations will not be taken up for counting during the regular round-wise counting of the Control Units. The Table allocated to such polling stations shall be kept vacant during the relevant round of counting. The list of all pre-identified polling stations shall be shared with the contesting candidates before the commencement of process of counting.

b) During the round-wise counting of EVMs, if there is any case in which the total votes polled in CU does not match the record of votes in Form 17-C, it is an indication that the Close-Result-Clear (CRC) protocol after mock poll was not correctly done in respect of this polling station during the actual poll. In all such cases, the CU shall be kept aside i.e. these polling stations will not be taken up for counting during the regular round-wise counting of the Control Units. The Table allocated to such polling stations shall be kept vacant during that particular round. The exact details and reasons for such a scenario shall be explained by the RO/ARO to the contesting candidates/election agents/counting agents present in the counting hall.

c) In all cases falling under (a) and (b) above, the corresponding VVPATs shall be counted for these polling stations after completing all counting rounds with CUs. 21

3. After the completion of all regular rounds of Control Unit counting, the following procedure shall be followed:

A. For State Assembly Elections:

(i) If the winning margin is more than the total votes polled in all such polling stations, these polling stations, identified as per para 2 (a) & (b), will not be taken up for counting and the result will be declared without these polling stations.

(ii) If the winning margin is equal to or less than total votes polled in these polling stations, in such case only counting of the respective VVPAT paper slips will be done and the Control Units shall be discarded for counting purpose i.e. the Control Units shall not be used for counting of votes.

(iii) Even in cases where VVPAT paper slips pertaining to mock poll have not been taken out from the drop box of the VVPAT, the VVPAT slips shall be counted and the candidate wise votes from mock poll certificate shall be deducted to arrive at correct count of candidate wise votes polled.

(iv) The VVPAT slip count result of all these polling stations shall be added to the candidate-wise tally and the final result compiled.

B. For Lok Sabha Elections:

(i) For all the polling stations where EVM and VVPAT has been kept aside as per 2 (a) and (b) above, the counting of the respective VVPAT paper slips only will be done and the Control Units shall be discarded for counting purpose i.e. the Control Units shall not be used for counting of votes.

(ii) Even in cases where VVPAT paper slips pertaining mock poll have not been taken out from the drop box of the VVPAT, still the VVPAT Slips shall be counted and the candidate wise votes from mock poll certificate shall be deducted to arrive at correct count of candidate wise votes polled.

(iii) The VVPAT slip count result of all these polling stations shall be added to the candidate-wise tally and the final result compiled.

3. Since, in the aforesaid cases the Control Units(s) will be discarded/not used for counting of votes, these polling stations will be excluded from the random selection of 5 (five)

Polling stations for mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips count.

4. **Mandatory Verification of VVPAT Slips:**

a) The purpose of mandatory counting and matching result of VVPATs and CUs from 5 randomly selected polling stations is to audit and test if any EVM records votes differently vis-a-vis the slips printed by the corresponding VVPAT attached to it. However, there are multiple scenarios owing to human error or non-adherence to the extant instructions by the polling staff

during actual polls in which the total VVPAT Slip count may vary from the CU count. A few illustrative scenarios are cases where VVPAT slips are not fully removed from the VVPAT after mock poll or CRC not done in CU after mock poll or other such cases of human error.

b) In case there is any mismatch between electronic candidate-wise result of the Control Unit and the candidate-wise VVPAT slips manual count, recounting of the VVPAT slips of that particular VVPAT shall be conducted till the recount is tallied with the EVM count or one of the previous VVPAT slips count. However, in all such cases before taking up the recount, VVPAT slips pertaining to the candidates whose result of CU count and VVPAT count is not tallying, counting supervisor shall recheck the election symbols of each VVPAT slip carefully of each bundle one-by-one and ensure that all bundles contain the VVPAT slip of the candidate concerned only. Recount shall be taken up, only after following the above process.

c) Even after following the above process, if the electronic count of the Control Unit and VVPAT slips manual count still do not tally, the VVPAT slip count will prevail as per Rule 56D(4)(b) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and result sheet shall be amended and final result announced accordingly.

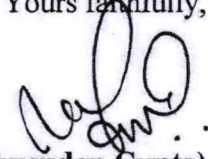
d) Detailed report in respect of all cases of mandatory VVPAT Slip verification, as well as VVPAT slip count done under Rule 56 D shall be submitted to the Commission through the CEO immediately after the completion of the counting process in the prescribed format.

e) A thorough analysis/enquiry shall be conducted in due course in all cases where the VVPAT slip count failed to tally with the electronic result of the CU and the exact reasons, technological, procedural, systemic, human error or lapses in compliance shall be ascertained and appropriate action(s) taken by the Commission.

5. Further, it must be ensured that the Serial no. of all EVMs used for polling shall be counter-checked by counting agents and a certificate to this extent shall be obtained from them at the time of counting.

6. The above instructions shall be strictly adhered to and brought to the notice of all concerned, including the Counting Observers.

Yours faithfully,



(Madhusudan Gupta)
Under Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 464/INST/EPS-2019

Dated: 21st May, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officer of,
All the States/Union Territories.

Subject: Carrying of Mobile Phone by Returning Officers/ Assistant Returning Officers inside the Counting Hall - reg.

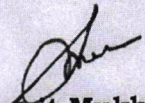
Reference: 1. The ECI's instruction No.470/INST/2014-EPS, dated 8th May, 2014.
2. The ECI's instruction No.470/INST/2014-EPS, dated 15th May, 2014.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's instructions referred above and to state that in view of inception of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot Paper System (RTPBS) wherein One-Time Password (OTP) is received on mobile phones, the Commission has directed that on the day of counting,

- (i) Only that mobile phone of the RO/ARO/Counting supervisor/s, linked to ETPBS, to be used to receive 'OTP' to log into ETPBS to start counting thereof have to be brought inside the counting hall;
- (ii) The mobile handsets will be switched on only to receive 'OTP' and be switched off once the system is logged on to ETPBS;
- (iii) Inside the counting hall, such mobile handsets are to be kept in the custody of ARO/RO/Observer, whosoever is the senior most officer in the Counting Hall for ETPBS counting, in switched off mode till the counting is over.
- (iv) In case login is closed for some reasons, Counting Supervisor can get the mobile from the officer to whom the mobile set was submitted to receive OTP once again for enabling him to re-login, and after re-login, he should return the mobile to same officer in switched off mode.
- (v) A declaration be got signed by all users separately about Dos and Don'ts for mobile usage.
- (vi) Specific permission be sought from concerned CEO for number of users in each case with the requisite mobile phone numbers being used. Mobile phones are to be allowed inside the Counting hall for all such users.

Yours faithfully,


(Sumit Mukherjee)
Principal Secretary