

BY SPEED POST

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001.

K.N.BHAR

UNDER SECRETARY

No. 51/8/7/2008-EMS

Date: 15/07/08

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All the States and Union Territories

Sub: Tracking the presence of polling agents at the polling stations on the poll day and mandatory conduct of Mock Poll and certification therein.

Sir,

The Commission attaches highest importance to the integrity of process and transparency in the election process. Instructions in the past have been issued about the conduct of mock poll. The Commission also considers that the presence of the agents appointed by the contesting candidates during their poll augurs well for transparency. On the other hand, presence of the agents of only one of the candidates in the absence of other agents may lead to complaints.

In this regard, the Commission has issued the following instructions:-

1. The recent instruction of the Commission that the polling agents appointed by the candidates shall be a voter in the same polling station shall be implemented strictly. Candidates may be advised by the Returning Officer to ensure that the agents reach the polling stations well in advance before the commencement of poll so that the pre-poll formalities such as issue of entry pass to the agents, conduct of mock poll etc., are done in time.
2. The Presiding Officers shall conduct mock poll, following the existing instructions, in the presence of the polling agents and prepare and sign the mock poll certificate in the prescribed format as in Annexure 1.

3. The Presiding Officers shall mention the names of the agents and the candidates they represent and obtain their signatures for the purpose of record.
4. Mock poll shall be conducted normally at least 30 minutes before the commencement of actual poll. In case where even two agents of different candidates are not present, the P.O may choose to wait 10 more minutes and if the agents are not turning up even after that the Presiding Officer may conduct the mock poll for verifying the working condition of the EVM and mention about that in his certificate suitably.
5. The Returning Officer through the Sector Officers and using the communication link with the polling station/ mobile teams shall track the conduct or otherwise of mock poll and ascertain the mock poll status within 30 minutes. Non-confirmation of mock poll could be indicative of some problem on the part of presiding officer or the EVM and hence the Returning Officer shall make immediate intervention to sort out the problem.
6. The polling stations not having the presence of rival candidates of recognized parties and where the mock poll had to be conducted in the absence of agents shall merit focused attention of the election machinery. Interventions such as deployment of reserve micro-observers, deployment of video cameras, frequent visits by sector officers and other senior officers could be made.
7. After the completion of poll on the basis of mock poll certifications received from the Presiding Officers, the Returning Officer shall prepare a list of such polling stations where the mock poll had to be conducted in the absence of agents or where at the time of mock poll the agents of more than one rival candidates of recognized parties were not present and special attention shall be paid to the documents received from such polling stations for proper scrutiny. The observers shall also pay their attention to this aspect.

This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(K.N.BHAR)

Annexure 1

Mock Poll Certificate

This is certified that I Presiding Officer at the Polling Station No - -----of ----- Assembly Constituency (or the -----Assembly segment under -----Parliamentary Constituency) conducted the mock poll at --- - AM today, the poll day i.e. ----- following the instructions issued by the Election Commission of India.

A total of ----- votes were polled in the mock poll and after the mock poll I have carefully cleared the memory and the total votes polled showed '0' after clearing the memory.

- A. At the time of mock poll the following of polling agents representing the candidates whose names mentioned against the names of such agents were present and I have obtained their signatures.
- B. At the time of mock poll the agent of only than one contesting candidate was present. After waiting for ten more minutes I conducted the mock poll along with other polling staff at ----- I have mentioned the name of the agent present at the time of mock poll including the name of the candidate whom he represented.

(In case, no agent was present it shall be mentioned “ No Polling agent was present at the time of mock poll)

Name of the agent	Name of the Candidate	Signature of the agent
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Date:
Time:

Name & Signature
of the Presiding Officer