

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Camp Bag

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110 001

No. 576/3/EVM/2016/SDR-Vol.I

Dated: 15th March, 2016

To,

The Chief Electoral Officer's of

1. Assam
2. Kerala
3. Tamil Nadu
4. West Bengal
5. Puducherry

Subject: General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry -use of EVMs-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the Commission's Direction bearing No. 576/3/EVM/2016/SDR-Vol.I dated 15th March, 2016, issued in pursuance of Section 61A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, specifying all the 126 Assembly Constituencies of Assam, 140 Assembly Constituencies of Kerala, 234 Assembly Constituencies of Tamil Nadu, 294 Assembly Constituencies of West Bengal and 30 Assembly Constituencies of Puducherry, as the Constituencies where votes at the current General elections to the Legislative Assemblies, notified/to be notified in Assam on 11-03-2016 & 15-03-2016, in West Bengal 11-03-2016, 14-03-2016, 22-03-2016, 28-03-2016, 01-04-2016, 04-04-2016 & 11-04-2016 and in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 22-04-2016, shall be given and recorded by means of Electronic Voting Machines. The Direction may be published in the Official Gazette of your State immediately and two copies of the Gazette may be forwarded to the Commission for its information and record.

2. I am further directed to invite your attention to the rules 49A, 49B, 49P and 49T(2) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, relating to the designs of voting machines, form and language(s) of the ballot paper on the balloting unit, design and language of tendered ballot paper and the manner of sealing of voting machines after the poll. The related instruction in this regard contained in Chapter-XI, 'Postal Ballot Papers and Ballot Papers for Voting Machines', of Returning Officers' Handbook, 2014 edition.

3. The above mentioned instruction may be brought to the notice of the Returning Officers of the Constituencies concerned for their information and compliance.

4. As regards counting of votes, your attention is invited to the provisions of rules 50 to 54A, 60 to 66A and 55C to 57C of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, and also the Commission's detailed directions and instructions relating to counting of votes as contained

in Chapter XV of the Returning Officers' Handbook, 2014 (where EVMs are used). The Returning Officers should be instructed to follow the said directions and instructions scrupulously.

5. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,



(N.T. Bhutia)
Under Secretary

TO BE PUBLISHED IN
THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE
OF THE STATES
IMMEDIATELY

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110 001

Dated: 15th March, 2016

DIRECTION

No. 576/3/EVM/2016/SDR-Vol.I: - Whereas, Section 61A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides that the giving and recording of votes by Voting Machines in such manner as may be prescribed, may be adopted in such constituencies as the Election Commission of India may, having regard to the circumstances of each case specify; and

2. Whereas, the Commission has considered the circumstances in all the 126 Assembly Constituencies of Assam, 140 Assembly Constituencies of Kerala, 234 Assembly Constituencies of Tamil Nadu, 294 Assembly Constituencies of West Bengal and 30 Assembly Constituencies of Puducherry, and is satisfied that sufficient number of Electronic Voting Machines are available for taking the poll in the abovementioned Assembly Constituencies, the polling personnel are well trained in efficient handling of the Electronic Voting Machines and the electors are also fully conversant with the operation of the Electronic Voting Machines;

3. Now, therefore, the Election Commission of India hereby specifies all the 126 Assembly Constituencies of Assam, 140 Assembly Constituencies of Kerala, 234 Assembly Constituencies of Tamil Nadu, 294 Assembly Constituencies of West Bengal and 30 Assembly Constituencies of Puducherry, as the constituencies in which the votes at the current General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the said States and UT, notified/to be notified in Assam on 11-03-2016 & 15-03-2016, in West Bengal on 11-03-2016, 14-03-2016, 22-03-2016, 28-03-2016, 01-04-2016, 04-04-2016 & 11-04-2016 and in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 22-04-2016, shall be given and recorded by means of Electronic Voting Machines in the manner prescribed under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, and the supplementary instructions issued by the Commission from time to time on the subject.

By order,


(ANUJ JAIPURIAR)
SECRETARY