

Immediate

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 52/2012/SDR/

Dated: 1st November, 2012

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of all
States and Union Territories.

Sub: "Voters on election duty" for the purpose of postal ballot facility.

Sir/Madam,

Please refer to the Commission's instructions regarding issue of postal ballots to voters on election duty. Under Rule 18 (a) (iii) read with Rule 17 (c) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, any public servant who is an elector of the constituency and is by reason of being on election duty unable to vote at the polling station where he/she is entitled to vote would be 'voter on election duty' for the purpose of postal ballot facility. The Commission's instructions specifically mention that Observers and the staff members accompanying them would be voters on election duty for the purpose of postal ballot facility. There are also instructions that drivers, conductors, cleaners of vehicles requisitioned for the purpose of election on the day of poll would also be treated as public servants on election duty and would be entitled for postal ballot.

A question has been raised whether various other categories of persons and staff engaged in work related to elections, such as videographers, staff of expenditure monitoring teams, staff working in control room, helpline staff, those appointed for dispatch and receiving of poll material, EVM maintenance, etc., would be entitled for postal ballot facility.

It is clarified that all persons and staff who are specifically assigned any official work in connection with election on the day of poll and the nature of work assigned to them is such that they will not be able to vote at the normal polling station, shall be treated as 'voters on election duty' for the purpose of postal ballot facility. However, those of the staff who may be assigned specific task related to election during the pre-poll period, but would not be on such election duty on the day of poll, cannot be treated as voters on election duty for the purpose of postal ballot facility.

This clarification may be brought to the notice of all election authorities in the State/UT.

Yours faithfully,

(K.F.WILFRED)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY