

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 470/INST/2013-EPS

Dated:- 2nd May, 2013

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and UTs.

Subject: Counting of voters – Randomization of counting staff – Regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter No. 470/2007/PLN-I, dated 29th August, 2007 and letter No 470/TN-LA/2011-SS-I, dated 5.5.2011, on the subject cited, and to state that various District Election Officers have pointed out that there is lot of confusion regarding the procedure of Randomization of counting officials, viz, as to whether DEOs or ROs are supposed to issue the orders regarding appointment of Counting officials, etc.

The Commission has considered the matter and it is clarified that:-

- (i) A list of 120% of the required number of officials (Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers) required for counting in the district, should be generated (including reserve) randomly, using the software by the District Election Officers one week prior to the date of counting. This is the first of the three-stage randomization process. Presence of observers is not required at this stage. This is only to identify and select the officials that would be given duty for counting as Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers in whichever constituency of that district. In no case, at this stage, the identity of the assembly constituency to which the Counting personnel are likely to be deployed will be known.
- (ii) The Assembly Constituency wise randomization shall be done by the District Election Officers in presence of Observer(s) 24 hours prior to commencement of counting. Thereafter, the Returning Officer shall issue the appointment letters to these officials assigning them concerned allotted ACs.
- (iii) Randomization for allotment of Tables in the counting hall to these Counting Supervisors/Counting Assistants/Micro Observers shall be done by the concerned R.O. in the presence of Observer at 5 AM on the day of Counting.

These instructions will be strictly and scrupulously followed by the all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY