

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 51/8/7/2019-EMPS

Dated: 29th March, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: EVM-Intermediate Strong Rooms for Polling Team staying with EVMs at intermediate location before poll and after poll-regarding.

Ref. Commissions' letter of even number dated 29th January, 2019

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that the Commission, vide its letter cited under reference, had prescribed detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for storage of EVMs and VVPATs, in case reserve EVMs and VVPATs are provided to Sector Officer/Zonal Magistrate before Poll Day. The Commission has received references from the State for keeping EVMs & VVPATs alongwith election materials provided to the polling parties dispatched before poll day and arrival of polling parties after poll day, where EVMs are required to be stored in intermediate strong rooms.

The Commission has considered the matter and prescribed the following SoP for P-2/P-3 despatch and P+1 arrival of Polling Parties :

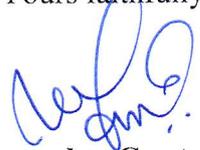
- i. A Govt. building shall be earmarked at the cluster point for polling parties and EVMs and VVPATs of P-2/P-3 despatch Polling Stations. The Returning Officers shall inform the same to all the contesting candidates in writing. Police Stations should not be used for such cluster points.
- ii. A room may be earmarked as strong room for storing EVMs & VVPATs of the P-2/P-3 PSs at these designated Govt. buildings. All EVMs & VVPATs shall be kept in the said strong room and sealed in the presence of Sector Officers and entire process shall be videographed. The contesting candidate may be allowed to nominate their representative to watch the whole process, if they so desire.
- iii. In case there is more than one assembly segment involved, a sturdy partition should be made for each assembly segment of the said strong room in such a way that it can be properly secured by double lock system/seals etc. Under no circumstance, the units form Assembly segment strong room should be mixed with other assembly segment.
- iv. When the EVMs/VVPAT are taken out of the AC-strong rooms for dispatch/arrival to/from Polling Station, the usual precaution of informing the date and time of

opening of strong room in writing to the candidate/agents shall be followed. Other instruction of ECI as mentioned in the Chapter-9 of Commission's Manual on EVM/VVPAT (February, 2019 Edition-4) should strictly be followed.

- v. A logbook shall be maintained for opening and closing of the said strong room.
- vi. The aforesaid process shall also be followed for P+1 arrival of Polling Parties. Minimum half section CAPF shall guard the intermediate strong room, where polled EVMs are stored.

The above instruction shall be strictly followed and also brought to the notice of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,



(Madhusudan Gupta)
Under Secretary