

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
PUDUCHERRY**

No.1-30(12)/SEC/CE/Dir./2021/ 712

Dated.20.9.2021

**DIRECTION**

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

The Commission attaches highest importance to the integrity of process and transparency in the election process. The Commission accordingly 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 issues the following instructions:-

- i. The polling agents appointed by the candidates shall be a voter in the same polling station, shall be implemented strictly.
- ii. Candidates may be advised by the R.O/A.R.O 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The Presiding officer shall mention the names of the agents and the candidates they represent and obtain their signatures for the purpose of record.
- v. 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.
- vi. The R.O 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.
- vii. Non-confirmation of mock poll could be indicative of some problem on the part of Presiding Officer or the EVM and hence the R.O./A.R.O. shall make immediate intervention to sort out the problem.
- viii. 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 frequent visits by sector officers and other senior officers could be made.

- ix. After the completion of poll, on the basis of mock poll certifications received from the presiding officers, the R.O/A.R.O 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.
2. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

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(ROY P THOMAS)  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

To

1. The District Election Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal.
2. The Regional Election Officer, Mahe / Yanam.
3. All ROs/AROs of Municipalities / Commune Panchayats.