

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001

No. 51/8/7/2018 – EMS

Dated: 3rd November, 2018

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: General Instructions on Storage of Polled and Unpolled EVMs & VVPATs after Poll & Counting – Regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Commission has issued instructions from time to time regarding proper storage of various category of EVMs and VVPATs after Poll and counting of votes. However, it has come to the Commission's notice that despite clear instructions to the contrary, unused and unpolled EVMs and VVPATs are stored with the polled EVMs and VVPATs in many cases, resulting in these unused EVMs & VVPATs getting blocked with the polled EVMs, till the completion of EP period, making them unavailable for any other use. In order to avoid this problem and ensure that unused EVMs and VVPATs are free from any encumbrances, it is reiterated that -

After poll, all available EVMs and VVPATs are divided in four categories, as under:

Category A: Polled EVMs & VVPATs: Those EVMs in which votes polled at polling stations are recorded and which are closed at the end of poll after following due procedure. VVPATs those were used during actual poll and contains printed paper slips (*Ballot slips*) in its Drop Box (*Ballot Compartment*).

Category B: Defective Polled EVMs & VVPATs are those which become defective after some votes are recorded in EVM or after printing of some paper slips (*Ballot slips*) VVPAT become defective i.e. goes in error.

Category C: Defective Unpolled EVMs & VVPATs are those which become defective before commencement of poll and are replaced.

Category D: Unused EVMs & VVPATs are those which are with Sector/Zonal/Area Magistrate, as reserve and are not used in actual poll.

Storage of EVMs & VVPATs after Poll & Counting of Votes: EVMs & VVPATs of Category 'A' & 'B' (*i.e. Polled and Defective Polled*) shall be stored in the Strong Room as per procedure laid down.

EVMs & VVPATs of Category 'C' & 'D' (*i.e. Defective unpolled and Unused Reserve*) shall be stored securely separately in a different room, which shall not be in the vicinity of AC strong room. Category 'C' & 'D' units shall not be stored in Strong Room having category

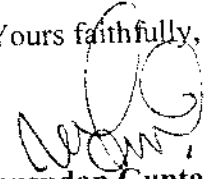


'A' & 'B' EVMs & VVPATs, under any circumstance, to ensure that unused EVMs and VVPATs are not blocked with the polled EVMs/VVPATs till the EP period is over and remain available for any other purpose. Security of minimum of 1/2 Section shall be provided to this separate room also. Separate room for storage of EVMs and VVPATs for 'C' and 'D' categories shall be identified and earmarked well in advance and intimated to the candidates.

After completion of counting of votes, EVMs & VVPATs of Category 'A' & 'B' shall again be stored in a Strong Room following the due procedure, however, it shall be ensured that EVMs & VVPATs of 2 or more than 2 assembly constituencies shall not be kept in the same strong room till the completion of Election Petition period.

The Chief Electoral Officers of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana are requested to send a booklet of photographs of strong rooms (AC-wise) earmarked for storing of (1) EVMs and VVPATs of categories 'A' and 'B' and (2) EVMs and VVPATs of categories 'C' and 'D', to the Commission for its information, addressed to Sh. Anoop Kumar, Secretary, Election Commission of India.

Yours faithfully,


Madhusudan Gupta
Under Secretary