

Public (Elections-III) Department

PRESS RELEASE

The counting of votes for the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2014 and Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 28.Alandur Assembly Constituency will commence from 8.00 a.m. on 16.5.2014 (Friday) at the counting centres which is under three tier security. As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the following arrangements are made in the counting centres:-

- ❖ Postal votes counting would be taken up first and after a gap of 30 minutes, the EVM counting would start.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India would be deploying totally 58 Counting Observers for 39 PCs and one Counting Observer for 28.Alandur AC bye-election for monitoring and supervision of the counting process.
- ❖ Each counting table shall have one Micro Observer. The Micro Observer will invariably be a Central Government / PSU of Central Government employees.
- ❖ Only the following persons can be allowed inside the counting hall:-
 - (i) Counting supervisors and counting assistants, micro observers
 - (ii) Persons authorized by ECI (possessing authority letter duly issued by ECI) and Observers
 - (iii) Public servants on duty in connection with the election;
 - (iv) Candidates, their election agents and counting agents.

- ❖ Before allowing the entry of the candidates, their agents and other officials whose identities have been established by means of identity card and proper frisking would be done by the security personnel.
- ❖ The contesting candidates will be entitled to appoint a counting agent for each table.
- ❖ All counting agents should be seated near the table allotted to them and would not be allowed to move about all over the hall.
- ❖ Entire counting process would be video graphed. CD of the recording should be kept in safe custody of DEO.
- ❖ The video coverage shall include the randomization process, opening of strong room, transfer of EVMs from strong room to counting hall, counting hall arrangements, process of counting in general in the counting hall and process of tabulation in general at the RO's table, the process of counter checking of two EVMs by the Observers and the security arrangements in and outside the counting hall / centre, presence of candidates and their agents in the counting centres and the process of declaration of result, handing over of Certificate of Return of Election, sealing of EVMs after counting and any other significant events of the counting process.
- ❖ Mobile telephones / I-pad / lap-top or any such electronic device which can record audio or video, are not to be allowed inside the counting hall. The only exceptions will be Commission's Observers and RO / AROs. However,

computer / laptop or mobile device, which is required for official use to transmit counting data will be allowed.

- ❖ Media persons would be permitted to carry mobile phones upto Media Centre in counting location and use it inside Media Centre. Mobile phones should not be carried or used outside the Media Centre. Media would be escorted in small batches for limited time to each hall.
- ❖ Copy of result of each table would be given to each counting agent on the table.
- ❖ After completion of each round of counting, candidate-wise votes secured would be tallied and displayed before commencement of next round of counting.
- ❖ A copy of the round's results would be shared with all candidates / agents, after completion of that round by the Returning Officer.
- ❖ Before RO declare result of an election, RO should obtain an authorization for declaration of result from the Observer concerned.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
TAMIL NADU