

Public (Elections-III) Department

PRESS RELEASE

The counting of votes for 39 Parliamentary Constituencies in connection with General Elections to Lok Sabha and Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 28.Alandur Assembly Constituency will be held on 16.5.2014 (Friday) from 8.00 A.M.

2. Totally 42 counting centres have been set up which are under three tier security as follows:-

- (a) First tier, which is the innermost perimeter outside the counting hall, shall be Central Police Force armed Guard
- (b) Second tier at the middle perimeter shall be a guard of State Armed Police (TSP). 1 company of TSP is deployed at each counting centre.
- (c) Third tier at the outer perimeter shall be a guard of District Police Force. The area within the outer perimeter shall be a pedestrian zone.
- (d) Around 373 to 420 police personnel have been deployed per counting centre for security purpose. The total police personnel being used is 13626.

3. Totally 62 Counting Observers have been deployed for monitoring and supervision of the counting process in Tamil Nadu at the rate of one to three Observers per Parliamentary Constituency, depending upon the local condition of that Parliamentary Constituency. Additional Observer have been given if the distance between halls at any centre is large. Additional Observers have also been provided for Thanjavur, Chennai South and Chennai North Parliamentary Constituencies.

4. For media, following facilities have been provided:

- (i) A media room will be created at each centre.
- (ii) Only those personnel having ECI passes can enter the counting centre.
- (iii) Media persons cannot enter the counting hall on their own, they would have to stay in the media centre and would be escorted in small batches to the counting hall where they would be allowed to stay for a short time.
- (iv) They should leave their mobile phone and other electronic devices in the media centre, since mobile phones are not allowed inside.
- (v) While in the hall they can take photos only through shoulder or hand hold cameras and cannot use tripods. They can take general pictures but not focus on any postal ballot vote or EVM reading.
- (vi) Copy of result of each round would be sent to media centre also.
- (vii) They can also bring Live U units for direct telecast upto media centre, but should not use it outside it.

5. Counting Agents are not permitted to bring mobiles. They can bring ball point pen, stationery, their copy of Form-17C given at polling station and plain calculators which cannot be used for transmitting messages or taking photographs. They can also bring blank pre-printed copies of Part II of Form-17C for making entries during counting.

6. Only following persons are permitted in the premises:

- (i) Counting Supervisors, Assistants, Micro Observer and other Counting staff.
- (ii) Persons authorized by the ECI.
- (iii) Public servants on duty in conduct of elections.

(iv) Candidates, Chief Agents and Counting Agents. Authorized representatives of candidates for Assembly Segments are not permitted unless they are counting agents. No one will be allowed inside the outer perimeter without valid identity card from the Election Commission.

7. Entire counting process would be video graphed. CD of the recording should be kept in safe custody of DEO.

8. 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 who can take mobiles in silent mode. However, computer / laptop or mobile device, which is required for official use to transmit counting data will be allowed.

9. Based on the instructions 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.
- ❖ Each counting table shall have one Micro Observer apart from counting staff. The Micro Observer will invariably be a Central Government / PSU of Central Government employees.
- ❖ Live streaming would also be done from the Counting halls which will be viewed by higher officials. A window for general public would also be given for which separate press release is being given.
- ❖ Each round-wise details will be updated in Election Commission's web site. CEO's website would also be updated after completion of counting in any Assembly Segment round.
- ❖ To ensure transparency in the counting process, copy of result of each table would be given to each counting agent by the Counting Supervisor.

- ❖ After completion of each round of counting, candidate-wise votes secured in Assembly Segment would be tallied and displayed before commencement of next round of counting. A copy would also be given to candidate or his agent, apart from announcement on loudspeaker.
- ❖ Before RO declares result of an election, he should obtain an authorization for declaration of result from the Observer concerned.

10. The entire counting day would be a dry day and all liquor shops, bars, etc. would remain closed on the entire counting day.

11. Only a maximum of four persons may accompany the candidate to the office of the Returning Officer, while receiving the Certificate of Election.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
TAMIL NADU

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SECTION OFFICER.