सत्यमेव जयते

Handbook for Counting Agent

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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"No voter to be left behind"

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Counting of votes is the last major step in the election process. It is in the correct and proper counting of votes that the true choice of the electorate finds expression. Therefore, the importance of the process of counting of votes hardly needs to be emphasized.

2. ROLE OF COUNTING AGENTS

2.1. Under the law, counting of votes is to be done under the supervision and direction of the Returning Officer of the constituency in the presence of the candidates and their agents. The law authorises the Assistant Returning Officer also to undertake the counting of votes. The counting of votes may be simultaneously done at more than one place and at more than one table at the same place. As the candidate or his election agent cannot be expected to be physically present at each of such counting places and tables, the law permits the candidate to appoint counting agents, who may be present at each of the said counting places and counting tables and look after his interests. Being the representatives of the candidates, the counting agents have an important role to play and their cooperation in this important task will make matters easy for the counting supervisors and the counting assistants.

2.2 Counting Agent should acquaint himself/herself fully with the latest position about the rules and procedures prescribed for the conduct of elections by EVM with VVPAT. Counting Agent must also familiarize himself/herself with the operation of EVM and VVPAT. For this purpose, Counting Agent should attend the demonstrations of the EVMs and VVPATs arranged by the Returning Officer where the EVM with VVPAT will be exhibited and then functioning and operation explained.

3. EVM AND VVPAT IN ELECTIONS

3.1 Elections in India are conducted with Electronic Voting Machines with VVPATs. These EVMs and VVPATs are manufactured by two Central Government undertakings, namely, Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore. EVMs have been so designed as to keep intact all the salient features of the system under which ballot paper and ballot boxes were used.

3.2 There are two models of the EVMs – M2 model and M3 model. There are two models of the VVPATs- one with VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU) and another without VSDU. VVPAT with VSDU is used with M2 model EVMs and VVPAT without VSDU is used with M3 model EVMs

3.3 The EVM operates on a 7.5-volt battery and can be used anywhere and under any conditions. It is tamper-proof, error-free and easy to operate. The Electronic Voting machine consists of two units, namely, Control Unit and Balloting Unit. Both the units of the machine are supplied in two separate carrying cases. The polling information, once recorded in the machine, is retained in its memory even when the battery is removed.

3.4 As per proviso to Rule 49A of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2013, a printer with a drop box of such design as approved by the Election Commission may also be attached to a voting machine for printing a paper trail of vote, in such constituency or constituencies or parts thereof as the Election Commission may direct. This printer with a drop boxis referred to as the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail System (VVPAT). The Commission has directed to use VVPAT in all elections at every Polling Station. The Presiding Officer keeps the VVPAT along with the BallotingUnit in the voting compartment; the VVPAT shall be connected to the EVM in the manner as directed by Election Commission. For this purpose, the voting compartment is increased proportionally. In VVPAT, on pressing the balloting button on Balloting Unit, the elector shall be able to view the printed paper slip showing the serial number, name and the symbol of the candidate for whom he has cast his vote. Such paper slip stays displayed for seven seconds through the transparent window of VVPAT before it gets cut and drop in the drop box attached to the VVPAT. VVPAT operates on 22.5-volt battery. The thermal paper used in the VVPATs for printing of VVPAT paper slips can print approximately 1500 paper slips only, out of which approximately 100 paper slips are got printed during the commissioning of VVPATs and mock poll at polling station on poll day. So, the maximum number of electors assigned to any Polling station is 1400.

3.5 The electors who do not wish to vote for any of the candidates can exercise their right 'not to vote for any candidate' without violation of the secrecy of their decision. A ballot panel with the words "None of the Above': NOTA" is available after the panel containing the name and particulars of the last candidate on the ballot paper.

3.6 One Balloting Unit caters up to a maximum of 16 candidates. If the number of candidates is 15, the last panel will be 'None Of The Above (NOTA)'; but if there are 16 candidates, there will have to be an additional Balloting Unit for 'NOTA'. The provision for 'None of the Above' [NOTA] option is a facility for expression of the decision not to vote for the contesting candidates. On the ballot unit, there is provision for display of the ballot paper containing the particulars of the election, serial numbers and names and photograph of contesting candidates and the symbols respectively allotted to them. Against the name of each candidate and the panel for NOTA, there is a blue button by pressing which the voter can record his vote. Alongside the said button, there is also a lamp for each panel which will glow red when the vote is recorded by pressing the said button.

3.7 One control unit can record the votes polled by a maximum of 64 candidates (including NOTA) in M2 EVM and of 384 candidates (including NOTA) in M3 EVM. For this purpose, four Balloting Units linked together are connected with one control unit in M2 EVM and Twenty-Four Balloting Units linked together are connected with one control unit in M3 EVM. On the top most portion of the control unit, there is provision for displaying the information and data recorded in the machine, like the number of contesting candidates, total number of votes polled, votes polled to each candidate, etc. This portion is called 'Display Section' of the control unit for

easy reference. Below the display section, there is a compartment for fixing the battery, which runs the machine. On the right side of this compartment, there is another compartment in which there is a button for setting the machine for the number of candidates contesting the particular election including NOTA. This button is called the 'Cand. Set' button and the whole section of the control unit containing these two compartments is called the 'Candidate Set Section'. Below the Candidate set section is the 'Result Section' of the control unit. This section contains (i) 'Close' button on the left side, used for closing the poll, (ii) two buttons in the middle - 'Result' & 'Print'. Result button is for ascertaining the result. Print button is for printout of the detailed result (For this purpose a special gadget is to be attached to the Control Unit) and (iii) 'Clear' button on the right side, for clearing the data recorded in the machine, when the data is no more required. In the bottom portion of the control unit, there are two buttons - one marked 'Ballot' and other marked 'Total'. By pressing the button 'Ballot', the ballot unit becomes ready to record the vote and by pressing the button 'Total', the total number of votes recorded up to that stage (but without the candidate-wise break up) can be ascertained. This section is known as the 'Ballot Section' of the control unit.

3.8 The machine, especially the Ballot unit, is so designed as to keep all essential features of the conventional voting system intact. The only change is that the voter is required to press the blue button provided opposite the name, photograph and symbol of the candidate of his choice or the panel for NOTA as against the use of an arrow cross mark rubber stamp which is affixed on the ballot paper on or near the symbol of his choice under the conventional system of voting. The process of voting by EVM is very simple, quicker and fool proof. Every vote is recorded accurately and there is no invalid vote.

4. APPOINTMENT OF COUNTING AGENTS

Qualification

4.1 The law does not prescribe any specific qualifications for persons to be appointed as counting agents. However, the candidates are advised to appoint mature persons who are above 18 years as their counting agents so that their interests are properly watched.

4.2 Since security personnel are not allowed to enter the counting hall as per standing instructions of the Election Commission, the following persons cannot be appointed as Counting Agent of a Candidate during an election:

(a) Any sitting Minister Union Government

(b) Any sitting Minister of State Government

(c) Sitting Member of Parliament

(d) Sitting Member of Legislative Assembly/Legislative Council

(e) Chief/Head/Chairperson of Urban Local Bodies, viz Mayor of a Corporation, Chairperson of Municipality/ Nagar Panchayat

(f) Chairperson of District level Zila Parishad/ Block level Panchayat Samiti

(g) Elected Chairpersons of National / State/ District co-operative institutions

(h) Political functionaries appointed as Chairpersons of Central PSUs / State PSUs, Chairperson of Government bodies, Government Pleader / Additional Government Pleader

(i) Any Government Servant

Any other person having security cover provided by the State (both Union and State Govts.) will be not allowed to act as Election Agent, Polling Agent or Counting Agent of any candidate during an election. Also, no person having security cover will be allowed to surrender his security cover to act as such agent of a candidate during an election. He cannot enter the counting hall along with his security personnel; his security cannot be put to jeopardy by allowing him to enter the hall without any security cover.

4.3 A Government servant also cannot act as a counting agent of a candidate (Section 134-A of the R.P. Act, 1951). If he so acts, he is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 months or with fine or with both.

Number of Counting Agents per candidate

4.4 Each candidate has been allowed to appoint as many counting agents as there are counting tables and one more to watch the counting at the Returning Officer's table. Under the instructions of the Election Commission not more than fourteen tables in addition to one table for the Returning Officer can be provided for counting in one counting hall. Thus, the maximum number of counting agents that may be appointed by a candidate should not ordinarily exceed 15, as the number of counting tables also does not ordinarily exceed 15, including the table of the Returning Officer.

4.5 The Commission may, however, by a general or special direction permit the Returning Officer to provide more than 15 tables. In that event, the candidates will also be permitted to appoint more than 15 counting agents and equal to the number of counting tables provided by the Returning Officer.

4.6 Under the law, the Returning Officer will intimate to each candidate or his election agent, at least one week before the date fixed for the poll, the place where the counting of votes will be done and date and time at which the counting will commence in writing. He will also inform them sufficiently in advance about the number of counting tables that will be provided in the counting hall, so that they may appoint their counting agents accordingly.

4.7 For an assembly constituency, the counting of votes will normally be done at one place. However, for a parliamentary constituency, the counting of votes may be done at different places. The above-mentioned limit in regard to the maximum number of counting agents will apply separately in respect of each such counting place when counting is done at more places than one.

4.8 In the case of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly, the counting of votes will be done simultaneously, assembly constituency segment-wise. In such event, the candidates for parliamentary and the assembly elections will be permitted to appoint their counting agents separately.

Appointment of Counting Agent

4.9 Appointment of a counting agent is to be made either by the candidate himself or by his election agent. Such appointment is made in Form 18 appended to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 (Appendix 1). The name and address of the counting agent will be filled in that form and the candidate or his election agent will personally sign that form. The counting agent will also sign that form in token of his acceptance of the appointment. Two copies of such forms together with the photographs of the agents will be prepared and signed, in all cases. One copy of that form is to be forwarded by the candidate/election agent to the Returning Officer while the second copy is given to the counting agent for production before the Returning Officer.

4.10 A candidate may appoint all his counting agents by a single letter of appointment in Form 18. In that case, all the counting agents are required to sign that letter of appointment in token of having accepted the appointment.

4.11 The facsimile signature of a candidate in the form of appointment is also accepted if there is no doubt about the signatures.

Time limit for appointing

4.12 The Election Commission has directed that in all constituencies, irrespective of the number of contesting candidates, the contesting candidates should submit the lists of their counting agents with photographs of such agents to the Returning Officer, latest by 17:00 hours three days prior to the date fixed for counting of votes. The Returning Officer will prepare identity cards for each such agent and issue the same to the candidate.

4.13 The counting agents must produce those identity cards along with their letter of appointment when they come to attend the counting.

4.14 The letter of appointment along with the identity card of counting agent must be produced before the Returning Officer at least one hour before the time fixed for counting of votes. The Returning Officer will not accept any appointment letter which is received after the aforesaid time.

Revocation of appointment

4.15 The candidate or his election agent is authorised to revoke the appointment of a counting agent.

4.16 Such revocation of appointment is made in Form 19 appended to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 (Appendix II) and becomes operative from the time at which it is lodged with the Returning Officer. In such a case, the candidate is authorised to appoint another counting agent in place of the one whose appointment has been revoked, at any time before the commencement of counting. Once the counting has commenced, no appointment of fresh counting agent can be made.

4.17 Appointment of such fresh counting agent is to be made in the same manner as explained above.

5. COUNTING AGENTS INSIDE THE COUNTING HALL

5.1 On production of his letter of appointment and the identity card before the Returning Officer, the counting agent will be required to sign the declaration contained in his letter of appointment

regarding maintenance of secrecy of voting before the Returning Officer. After verification of the letter of appointment, identity card and declaration, the Returning Officer will permit the counting agent to enter the counting hall.

5.2 The Returning Officer is empowered to subject any counting agent to search his person before entry into the counting hall.

5.3 Each counting agent will be given a badge by the Returning Officer indicating whose agent he is and showing the serial number of the table at which, he will watch the counting. He should keep sitting at the table allotted to him. He will not be allowed to move about all over the hall. However, the candidate, his election agent and in their absence, only his counting agent at the Returning Officer's table will be allowed to go around all counting tables.

5.4 Everyone will be required to fully cooperate with the Returning Officer in maintaining strict discipline and order inside the counting hall. They should carry out all directions given by the Returning Officer. They should note that the Returning Officer may send any person who persists in disobeying his directions out of the counting hall.

5.5 Counting agent and other will not be allowed to go outside the counting hall during counting process. In other words, when once counting agents and others are inside the counting hall, they will ordinarily be allowed to go outside only after the declaration of result.

5.6 All reasonable facilities for drinking water, refreshment, toilet, etc. will be provided near the counting hall.

5.7 Counting Agents are not allowed to carry Mobile Phone in the Counting Center. Commission's Observers will be allowed to carry the mobile phones but they will keep their mobile phones in silent mode.

5.8 The counting staff, the candidate and his election/counting agent(s) are not allowed to smoke inside the counting hall.

5.9 The counting will be done on the tables arranged in rows. The tables in each row will be serially numbered. On each counting table, the seating arrangement for the counting agents shall be made having regard to the following categories of priority, namely:

(i) Counting Agents of Candidates of recognised National parties;

(ii) Counting Agents of Candidates of recognised State parties;

(iii) Counting Agents of Candidates of recognised State parties of other States who have been permitted to use their reserved symbols in the constituency;

(iv) Counting Agents of Candidates of registered-unrecognised parties;

(v) Counting Agents of Independent candidates.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR BARRICADING OF COUNTING TABLES

6.1 In each counting hall, barricades or wire mesh will be provided for each counting table so that the EVMs are not handled by the counting agents. However, the counting agents will be provided all reasonable facilities to view the whole counting process at the counting table. The

Returning Officer will ensure that the barricades or wire mesh are transparent or that the space in between or above the bamboos or other material used for purpose of erecting barricades is adequate to permit full viewing of the counting process. The exact manner in which barricades are to be erected is left to the discretion of the Returning Officer. He has to adopt such approach as he may deem fit to attain the objective of ensuring that the EVMs are not handled by unauthorised persons or tampered with in any manner in the process of counting.

7. MAINTENANCE OF SECRECY

7.1 Every person inside the counting hall is required by law to maintain, and to aid in maintaining, the secrecy of voting and should not communicate to any person any information calculated to violate such secrecy. They should note that any person contravening the provisions of law in this respect is liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 months or with fine or with both (Section 128 of the R.P. Act, 1951)

7.2 Before the commencement of the counting of votes, the Returning Officer will read out and explain the provisions of the above-mentioned Section 128 for the information of all present and for compliance on their part.

8. RANDOMIZATION OF COUNTING OFFICIALS

8.1 The posting of Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants must be done randomly in such a way that the counting official will come to know of the Assembly Constituency and the table assigned to him only at the time of their arrival at the Counting Centre on the day of the counting.

8.2 The District Election Officer shall issue photo – identity cards to all counting staff. He must keep a pool of well-trained officials (including the reserved pool) available for counting purposes. The counting officials should be directed to reach the counting centre at 6 am on the date of counting.

8.3 The Observers and the District Election Officer would assemble at one place for carrying out the randomization at 5 am on the day of the counting. This place may be the office of the DEO/RO, Counting Centre or any other office where the process can be conveniently carried out.

8.4 The randomization would be carried out either manually or by using a computer. For manual randomization, the senior most observer present would randomly assign the Constituency and the table number to the counting officials by the draw of lots. This has to be done with the two lists mentioned above separately and independently so that for each of the tables the name of one Counting Supervisor and one Counting Assistant is generated.

8.5 The District Election Officer would make all prior arrangements to ensure quick and smooth conduct of this randomization process. This would include preparing chits of the unique serial numbers assigned to counting officials and the constituency/table numbers.

8.6 Alternatively, the District Election Officer may make arrangements for carrying out the abovementioned randomization with the aid of a computer in consultation with the Observers. The Observers must fully satisfy themselves that the process is free from all errors and that it truly generates the results in a random manner.

8.7 The District Election Officers would ensure that video graphy of the process of randomization is carried out for record purpose.

8.8 Once the randomization process is over, the constituency wise posting lists, duly signed by the District Election Officer and the Observers would be brought to the Counting Centre by the Observers and District Election Officer, in time, to be handed over to the respective Returning Officers and the control room staff by 6 a.m.

8.9 The whole process of randomization should be over by 6:00 am so that the counting officials are able to reach their assigned position conveniently before the scheduled start of the counting process.

8.10 The officials who have not been assigned any Constituency/table would form a reserved pool.

8.11 There would be no deployment of officials in shifts as the counting process would normally not take more than 6 to 8 hours. However, the District Election Officers would have the liberty of replacing officials in case such an exigency arises, but this replacement would also be done randomly from the pool of officials in reserve after consulting the Observer of the constituency concerned. The counting of votes will, as far as practicable, be proceeded with continuously till it is over.

9. COUNTING OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

(A) COUNTING OF ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS (ETPBs) FOR SERVICE VOTERS

9.1 Counting of ETPBs shall be done at Returning Officer's table as in the case of the other postal ballots. Only such Postal Ballots as are received till the hour fixed for commencement of counting shall be counted.

9.2 **First Phase:** Opening of Form 13-C (Outer Envelope): The covers in Form 13-C received in time should be verified and opened one after another. QR code on the Outer Envelope will be scanned using a computer software and QR code reader and necessary validity checks will be performed. After verification of the outer envelope, a unique serial number will be provided by the computer. This serial number will also be manually marked by RO on the envelope being verified. The computer software will check the entry in the QR code for any possible duplicates in the list of Postal Ballots received and flag a warning for such cases. The computer software will also provide the list of serial numbers which are all duplicate to the Postal Ballot being handled. The RO will locate all such duplicate envelopes as indicated by the computer software and keep them together physically and invalidate all such duplicate/multiple votes. All such envelopes declared invalid shall not be opened for further processing and will be kept aside and preserved for future reference. Number of such duplicate Postal Ballots shall be marked in the register. On opening the cover "B" (Form 13C), two documents are required to be found inside.

The first is the declaration by the voter in Form 13-A and the second the inner cover i.e. Form 13-B containing the Postal Ballot Paper. As each cover is opened, RO should take out the declaration in Form 13-A and the cover in Form I3-B, scan, verify and then scrutinize the declaration.

9.3 Before opening the cover in Form 13-B containing the Postal Ballot Paper, the Returning Officer must check the declaration in Form 13-A and all such forms 13A must be kept separately and sealed, before taking up Form 13B for opening and counting. Returning Officer will reject a Postal Ballot without opening its inner cover in Form 13-B if:

i. the declaration in Form 13-A is not found in the cover, or

ii. the Electronic Postal Ballot Identification Number (e-PBID) in the declaration in Form 13-A does not match the issued e-PBID, or

iii. the declaration has not been duly signed and, or not attested by an officer competent to do so, or the e-PBID of Postal Ballot appearing in the declaration is different from the e-PBID on the cover in Form 13-B.

9.4 Each such rejected cover should be endorsed suitably and the declaration and the cover should be placed back in the cover in Form 13-C (Outer Envelope). All such covers in Form 13-C should be kept together in a separate packet duly sealed and full particulars such as the name of the constituency, the date of counting and a brief description of contents should be noted thereon for easy identification. All the declarations in Form 13-A, which have been found to be in order, should then be kept separately before opening of the Cover-A (Form-13B)for counting.

9.5 For further counting, all instructions for counting of postal ballot paper shall apply.

9.6 Scanning of QR Codes SHOULD be done in the sequence without fail. Form 13C should be scanned first, followed by both the QR Code on Form 13A and then Form 13B. SEQUENCE OF QR CODE SCANNING SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(B) COUNTING OF POSTAL BALLOT PAPERS

9.7 On the counting day, the postal ballot counting will be taken up first and after a gap of 30 minutes, the EVM counting can also start.

9.8 There should be a separate table and separate arrangement for the counting of postal ballots. For every 500 postal ballot papers, extra table should be used for counting. Returning Officer will be responsible for counting of postal ballot paper at his table. One Assistant Returning Officer shall be dedicated to handle the postal ballot counting. The Observer and Returning Officer should closely monitor the progress made in postal ballot counting as well as EVM counting simultaneously. The candidates/their election agents shall be advised to nominate a separate counting agent and he may remain present near the table where the postal ballot counting taking place.

9.9 Each postal ballot paper received from a voter will be contained in an inner cover in Form 13-B. This cover along with the declaration of the elector in Form 13-A will be contained in a larger cover in Form 13-C addressed to the Returning Officer.

9.10 The Returning Officer will not open any cover in Form 13-C containing a postal ballot paper which he has received late, that is, after the time fixed for the commencement of counting. He will make a suitable endorsement for this purpose on the outside of the cover in Form 13-C. The votes contained in these covers will not be counted. He will make a packet of all such covers and seal the packet.

9.11 All covers in Form 13-C containing postal ballot papers which were received in time by the Returning Officer will be opened by him, one after another. The declaration by the voter in Form 13-A will be found inside each cover in Form 13-C. Before opening any of the inner covers in form 13-B containing the postal ballot papers , the Returning Officer will check the declarations (Form 13-A). He will reject a ballot paper without opening its inner cover (Form 13-B) in any of the following cases:

(a) If the declaration in Form 13-A is not found in the cover in Form 13-C;

(b) If the declaration has not been duly signed by the elector or has not been duly attested by an officer competent to do so or is otherwise substantially defective;

(c) if the serial number of the ballot paper appearing on the declaration is different from the serial number as endorsed on the inner cover in Form 13-B.

9.12 All such rejected covers in Form 13-B will be suitably endorsed by the Returning Officer, and will be replaced with the respective declarations in the larger covers in Form 13-C. All such larger covers will be kept in a separate packet which will be sealed by the Returning Officer and full particulars, such as the name of the Constituency, the date of counting, and a brief description of the contents will be noted thereon for identifying the packet.

9.13 Thereafter, the Returning Officer will proceed to deal with the remaining covers in Form 13-B, i.e., other than those rejected as aforesaid. In order that there may be no case of the secrecy of the postal votes being violated, all the declarations in Form 13-A which are found by the Returning Officer on scrutiny to be in order will first be placed in a separate packet and sealed. Identifying particulars will be noted on the packet. It is necessary to put these declarations away in a sealed packet before any ballot papers proper are brought out of their covers in Form 13-B, as the declarations contain the names of the voters along with the respective serial numbers of their postal ballot papers.

9.14 After the above procedure has been completed, the Returning Officer will proceed to open the covers in form 13-B, one after another, and the postal ballot papers contained in them will be brought out. The Returning Officer will scrutinize every such ballot paper and decide its validity.

9.15 A postal ballot paper will be rejected –

(a) if no vote is recorded thereon; or

(b) if votes are given on it in favour of more than one candidate; or

(c) if it is a spurious ballot paper; or

(d) if it has been so damaged or mutilated that its identity as a genuine ballot paper cannot be established; or

(e) if it is not returned in the cover sent along with it to the elector by the Returning Officer; or

(f) if the mark indicating the vote is made in such a way that it is doubtful to make out the candidate to whom the vote has been given; or

(g) if it bears any marks or writing by which the voter can be identified.

9.16 There is no particular mark required by law to be made by a voter to indicate his vote on a postal ballot paper. Any mark can be accepted as valid so long as it has been so made and so placed on the ballot paper that the intention of the voter to vote for a particular candidate is clear beyond any reasonable doubt. Thus, a mark made anywhere in the space allotted to a candidate will be taken as a valid vote in favour of the candidate concerned. Again, a vote recorded on a postal ballot paper will not be rejected merely on the ground that the mark indicating the vote is not distinct or made more than once for the same candidate, if the intention that the vote should be for a particular candidate clearly appears from the way the paper is marked.

9.17 The valid votes will then be counted and each candidate credited with the votes given to him. The total number of postal votes received by each candidate will then be counted, entered in the result sheet in Form 20 and announced for the information of the candidates/election agents/counting agents.

9.18 Thereafter, all the valid postal ballot papers and all the rejected postal ballot papers will be separately bundled and kept together in a packet and sealed with the seal of the Returning Officer, and the seals of such of the candidates, their election agents or counting agents (not exceeding two in respect of any one candidate) as may desire to affix their seals thereon.

9.19 Under no circumstances, should the results of all the rounds of the EVM counting be announced before finalizing the postal ballot counting.

9.20 In case, the victory is being decided only on account of postal ballot counting there should be a mandatory re-verification. In the presence of Observer and Returning Officer, all the postal ballot papers rejected as invalid as well as the votes counted in favour of each and every candidate shall be once again be verified and tallied. The Observer and Returning Officer shall record the findings of the re-verification and satisfy themselves before finalizing the result.

9.21 Whenever such re-verification/recounting is done, the entire proceeding should be video-graphed without compromising the secrecy of ballot and the videocassette/ CD should be sealed in a separate envelope for future reference.

10. COUNTING OF VOTES POLLED AT POLLING STATIONS

10.1 While the postal ballot papers are being counted by the Returning Officer at his table, the counting of votes recorded at polling stations by means of EVMs will also be taken up by the Assistant Returning Officer(s) at the other tables provided in the counting hall. For that purpose, the control units of EVMs received from the polling stations will be distributed to the various counting tables, beginning with the control unit of EVM of polling station No. 1, being distributed to table No. 1, the control unit of EVM of polling station No.2 being distributed to table No.2 and so on. At each counting table, votes cast at one polling station shall be taken up at a time. Thus, the counting of votes of as many polling stations as there are the number of counting tables will be simultaneously taken up in the first round of counting. The counting will be done and completed in as many rounds as are necessary, having regard to the number of counting tables and number of polling stations. The control units for the next round will not be brought on the counting tables, unless the counting of the previous round is over. In case of simultaneous elections, the total number of counting tables should be divided into two groups of equal number of tables. The first group should be for Assembly election and the other group for the Parliamentary election. For example, if the total number of counting tables is 14 (fourteen), in the first round of counting, control unit for Assembly election used at polling station number 1 should be given to table number 1 and the control unit used for Lok Sabha election at polling station number 1 should be given to table number 8, i.e., the first table for the counting of votes for Lok Sabha election, and control unit for Assembly election used at polling station number 2 should be given to table number 2 and the control unit used for Lok Sabha election at polling station number 2 should be given to table number 9, i.e., the second table for the counting of votes for Lok Sabha election and so on. Counting Agent should keep an account of such distribution with him/her for his/her information. It is to be noted that in the case of counting for simultaneous elections, the next round of counting shall be taken up only after the counting in the previous round, in respect of both assembly and parliamentary elections is completed and control units used in the polling stations covered by the round completed are removed from the counting tables.

10.2 At the time of counting, only the control unit of the EVM used at a particular Polling Station is required for ascertaining the result of poll at that polling station. The ballot units have to be kept in strong room.

10.3 Along with the control unit, the relevant account of votes recorded in form 17C pertaining to that polling station will also be supplied to the counting table.

10.4 Before the votes recorded in any control unit of an EVM are counted, the seals on the control units are checked. The counting agents present at the counting table shall be allowed to inspect the outer paper strip seal, the special tag, the green paper seals and such other vital seals as may

have been affixed on the carrying case and the control unit and to satisfy themselves that the seals are intact and seals of control unit has not been tampered with. If seal of any control unit is found to have been tampered, the votes recorded in that machine shall not be counted and the matter shall be reported to the Commission for its directions.

10.5 As each carrying case of control unit is brought to the counting table, the seals affixed there on by the Presiding Officer at the polling station will be examined. Even if the seal of a carrying case is not intact in any case, the control unit kept therein could not have been tampered with if the seals thereon and particularly the paper seal(s) on that unit are intact. The carrying case will then be opened and the control unit taken out.

10.6 As each control unit is taken out of the carrying case, its serial number will be checked so as to ensure that it is the same control unit which was supplied for use at that polling station. Then, the seal on the 'Candidate Set Section' which is put by the Returning Officer before the supply of the machine to the polling station and the seal on the outer cover of 'Result Section' which is affixed by the Presiding Officer at the polling station will be checked. Even if any of these seals is not intact the control unit could not have been tampered, if the paper seals put on the inner cover of the Result Section are intact.

10.7 On opening the outer cover of the Result Section, the inner cover sealed with the seal of the Presiding Officer will be seen. Even if this seal is not intact, the control unit could not have been mishandled if the paper seal is intact and has not been tampered. In the inner cover of the Result Section, there will be a green paper seal. The green paper seal will have been so fixed that the two open ends of the seal project outwards from the sides of the inner compartment in which the result buttons are located. On one such open end of the paper seal will be the printed serial number of that seal. That serial number on the paper seal will be compared with the serial number as given in the paper seal account prepared by the Presiding Officer in item 10 of Part I of Form 17C. The counting agents present at the counting table will be allowed to compare such serial number of the paper seal and satisfy themselves that the paper seal is the same which had been fixed by the Presiding Officer at the polling station before the commencement of poll.

10.8 If the serial number of the paper seal actually used in the control unit does not tally with the serial number as shown by the Presiding Officer in the paper seal account, it may be that the paper seal account contains a mistake or there would be a prima-facie suspicion that the voting machine has been mishandled with. The Returning Officer will decide the question by checking the serial numbers of the unused paper seals returned by the Presiding Officer. If he finds it to be a case of clerical mistake, he will ignore the discrepancy.

10.9 On the other hand, if the Returning Officer is satisfied that the voting machine has been mishandled with or is not the same which was supplied for use at that polling station, the machine will be kept apart and the votes recorded therein shall not be counted. He will report the

matter to the Commission for its directions. Under the law, it is not necessary to adjourn the entire counting if any voting machine has been found to have been mishandled. The Returning Officer will proceed with the counting in respect of the other polling stations.

10.10 At the closure of each round, the Observer would randomly select any two control units from amongst the Control units of the concerned round which have been counted. He would then direct the micro-observer specifically deployed for this purpose by the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer through random selection to independently note down from the Control units selected, the details of the votes polled as indicated by the machine. These details he would then compare with the details provided by the officials in the table wise result to check for any discrepancy between the two. Care must be taken that the staff assigned for random checking are not aware of the details provided in the table wise result.

10.11 Apart from one Counting Supervisor and one Counting Assistant for each counting Table, one additional staff would be seated in each of the 14 counting tables. The additional staff will invariably be a Central Govt./ Central Govt. PSU employee. This additional staff will note down the details of votes exhibited by the EVMs being counted in each round in that Table. These additional counting staff would be provided with a pre-printed statement on which there will be space for noting down the CU No., Round No., Table No., Polling Station Number and thereafter the names of all the contesting candidates and panel for NOTA as they appear in the ballot paper. They will sign at the end of the statement and hand them over to the observer after each round.

10.12 Wherever adequate numbers of Central Govt. staff are not available, the shortfall will be made good by the Divisional Commissioner / CEO by mobilizing the required number of staff from the neighbouring districts within the Division. The additional staff will be given brief orientation training before being deployed at the counting center as above. The additional staff also will be provided an ID Card by the District Election Officer. The constituency-wise and subsequently Table-wise deployment of such additional staff shall also be done randomly by the Observer.

10.13 The Observers nominated by the Election Commission and deployed in the concerned constituencies during the election process, have been provided special responsibility to oversee and supervise the counting process under the statutory provisions given under the Law. They have also been empowered to stop the counting process at any time before the declaration of result or may direct the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer not to declare the result under different circumstances as envisaged in the law.

10.14 In cases where the Observer orders to stop the process of counting, a detailed report in the matter shall be furnished forthwith to the Commission by the Observer and Returning Officer concerned either jointly or separately for seeking appropriate orders of the Commission.

11. ASCERTAINING THE RESULT

11.1 After satisfying that the paper seal is intact, that the control unit is the same as was supplied at the polling station and that it has not been tampered, the votes recorded therein shall be counted. For this purpose, the following procedure will be followed by the Counting Supervisor:

(i) Power switch provided in the rear compartment of the control unit will be put to 'ON' position. The 'ON' lamp in the display section of the control unit will then glow green.

(ii) The paper seal over the 'Result' Button provided beneath the upper aperture of the inner cover of result section will be pierced through.

(iii) The 'Result' Button will then be pressed.

(iv) At the 'Result' button being so pressed, the total number of votes recorded for each Candidate and NOTA at the polling station shall be displayed automatically in the Display Panels of the control unit.

(v) The result as displayed sequential candidate-wise shall be noted by the Counting Supervisor in 'Part II-Result of Counting' of Form 17C.

11.2 If required, the Result button can be pressed again to enable the candidates and/or their agents to note down the above result.

11.3 After the result has been noted, the cover of result section will be closed and the control unit switched off.

12. ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF MALFUNCTIONING OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVM) DURING COUNTING OF VOTES

12.1 Following actions to be taken in case of malfunctioning of EVM during counting of votes:

a. In case any Control Unit does not display result, it should be kept back inside its carrying case and then be kept in the Returning Officer's custody in the counting hall. Counting of votes in other machines should continue as usual.

b. Result from such Control Unit(s) will not be retrieved using Auxiliary Display Unit or Printer.

c. After completion of counting of votes all the Control Units, the printed paper slips of the respective VVPAT shall be counted as per the counting procedure prescribed by the Commission to count VVPAT paper slips.

d. Thereafter, counting of printed paper slips of VVPAT(s) under Rule 56D of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 should be taken up, if any.

e. A report regarding counting of VVPAT paper slips should be sent to the Commission in the following format through CEO concerned for information:

S. No.	No. and Name of Assembly Constituency	Polling Station No.	Unit ID of VVPAT	Unit ID of Control Unit for which VVPAT paper slips counted	
				Non-retrieval of result from CU	Under Rule 56D of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.					
2.					

f. After completion of counting, all the Control Units whether result has been retrieved from it or not should be kept back inside their respective carrying cases. The carrying cases should then be sealed once again. The Returning Officer and Observer should put their signatures on the seal. All candidates and their election agents should also be allowed to put their signature on the seal. The Control Unit should be then kept in the strong room (s).

13. COMPLETION OF 'PART II-RESULT OF COUNTING' OF FORM 17C

13.1 As the votes secured by each candidate and for none of the above (NOTA) are displayed on the display panels of the control unit, the counting supervisor shall, as mentioned above, record the number of such votes separately in respect of each candidate in 'Part II – Result of Counting' of Form 17C. He shall also note down in the said Part II of Form 17C whether the total number of votes as shown in that part tallies with the total number of votes shown against item 6 of Part I of that Form or any discrepancy has been noticed between these two totals.

13.2 If he notices any such discrepancy, he will bring it to the notice of the Returning Officer for appropriate action in accordance with law. Counting Agent may also bring it to the notice of the Candidate or his election agent so that he may if he so likes, pursue the matter, with the Returning Officer.

13.3 After completing Part II of Form 17C in all respects, the counting supervisor shall sign it. He shall also get it signed by the candidates or their agents present at the counting table.

13.4 A sample Form 17C is given at Appendix III.

13.5 After the Counting Supervisor has duly filled in Part II of Form 17C, signed it and got it signed by the candidates or their agents, he shall handover that form to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall countersign the Form after satisfying himself that the same has been properly filled and completed in all respects. The form so countersigned by the Returning Officer shall be sent to the officer who is compiling the final result and preparing the Final Result Sheet in Form 20.

14. MANDATORY VERIFICATION OF VVPAT PAPER SLIPS OF RANDOMLY SELECTED ONE POLLING STATION

14.1 Mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected one polling station shall be conducted in addition to the provisions of Rule 56D of the conduct of Election Rules, 1961, after the completion of the last round of counting of votes recorded in the EVMs. In case of the General and Bye election to State Legislative Assemblies, verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected one polling station in each Assembly Constituency. In case of General and Bye election to the House of the People, verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected one polling station of each Assembly segment of the Parliamentary Constituency concerned or as directed by the Commission.

14.2 For this mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected one polling station for each Assembly Constituency/Segment shall be taken up after the completion of the last round of the counting of the votes recorded in the EVMs.
2. The randomly selection of one polling station per Assembly Constituency/Segment shall be done by the Draw of lots, by the Returning Officer concerned, in the presence of candidates /their agents and the General Observer appointed by the Commission for that Constituency.
3. The draw of lots must be conducted immediately after the completion of the last round of counting of votes recorded in the EVMs (Control Units) in the designated Counting Hall for the particular Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment.
4. A written intimation regarding the conduct of the draw of lots for the random selection of one polling station for verification of VVPAT paper slips shall be given by the Returning Officer to the candidates/ their election agents well in advance.
5. The following procedure shall be followed for the conduct of draw of lots:
   a. white colour paper cards of postcard size shall be used for conducting the draw of lots.
   b. the total number of such paper cards should be equal to total number of polling stations in the Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment minus the number of the polling stations(s) whose VVPAT paper slips have already been counted due to non-display of result from Control Unit(s)or under Rule 56D of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 or whatsoever reasons.
   c. The paper cards shall have pre-printed Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment number, Assembly Constituency/Assembly Segment name and date of polling on the top, and the polling station number in the centre. Each digit of the polling station number shall be at least 1" X 1" (one inch by one inch) size and printed in black.

d. the paper cards to be used for draw of lots should be four folded in such a way that polling station number is not visible.

e. Each paper card shall be shown to the candidates/their agents before folding and dropping in the container.

f. The paper cards shall be kept in the big container and must be shaken before picking up one slip by the Returning Officer.

14.3 The verification of VVPAT paper slips shall be done in a 'VVPAT Counting Booth' specifically prepared for this purpose inside the Counting Hall. The booth shall be enclosed in a wire mesh just like a bank cashier's cabin so that no VVPAT paper slip can be accessed by any unauthorized person. One of the Counting table in the Counting hall can be converted into VVPAT counting booth and can be used for normal counting of round-wise EVM votes before the count of VVPAT paper slips as per random selection after the completion of round-wise EVM votes counting.

14.4 The verification count of VVPAT paper slips of the randomly selected one polling station shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the instructions of the Commission on counting of printed paper slips.

14.5 The Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be, shall personally supervise the counting of VVPAT paper slips at this booth. The General Observer shall ensure close and careful observation of the entire exercise and ensure compliance of the Commission Instructions.

14.6 The above process shall be fully video-graphed.

14.7 After completion of the above process, the Returning Officer shall give certificate in the format given below:

Verification of paper slips of VVPAT of one randomly selected polling station

Name of State

No. and Name of Assembly/Parliamentary Constituency

No. and Name of Assembly Segment (in case of PC)

S. No. and Name of Polling Station

Unique ID of Control Unit

Unique ID of VVPAT

It is certified that pilot testing of counting of paper slips of VVPAT of one randomly selected polling station has been conducted as per the instructions of the Commission.

Nameof Candidate	No. of Votes Cast		Discrepancy, if any
	As per EVM	As per Paper slips	
1.			
2.			
3.			
...			
...			
NOTA			
TOTAL VOTES			

Signature of Counting Agents

1.

2.

3.

Signature of Counting Supervisor

Signature of Returning Officer

Signature of General Observer

15. PREPARATION OF FINAL RESULT SHEET

15.1 The officer in-charge of compiling the final result and preparing the Final Result Sheet in Form 20 shall make entries in that form showing the votes polled by each candidate polling station wise, strictly in accordance with the entries made in 'Part II– Result of Counting' of Form 17C in respect of each polling station. The number of test votes in VVPAT and tendered votes polled, if any at a polling station shall also be noted in the appropriate column in Form 20 against the polling station concerned.

15.2 The entries so made in Form 20 in respect of each polling station shall be announced so that the candidates and their agents may take note of the result of counting in respect of each polling station. Alternatively, the Returning Officer may cause the entries made in Form 20 to be written on a display board. This will enable RO to proceed uninterruptedly with the counting of votes at other polling stations.

16. RECOUNT

16.1 Normally, there will be no question of recount of votes recorded in the voting machines. Every vote recorded by the voting machines is a valid vote and no dispute will arise as to its validity or otherwise. At the most, some candidates or their agents may not have noted down the result of voting at any particular polling station properly when the control unit displayed that information. If necessity arises for re-verification, the same can be done by pressing the 'Result' button, whereupon the result of voting at that polling station will again be displayed in the display panels of that control unit.

16.2 Despite the necessity for recount being totally eliminated by the use of voting machines, the provisions relating to recount contained in Rule 63 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 still apply in relation to constituencies.

16.3 Accordingly, after the entire counting is over, the Returning Officer will announce that result giving the total number of votes polled by each candidate as recorded in the Final Result Sheet (Form 20). After the announcement is made, a candidate, or in his absence his election agent or any of his counting agents, may apply in writing for a recount of votes recorded at all or any of polling stations stating the grounds on which he demands such recount.

16.4 After the entries made in the result sheet are announced, any candidate or in his absence his election agent or any of his counting agents may apply in writing to the returning officer to count the printed paper slips in the VVPAT in respect of any polling station or polling stations. The returning officer may, based on the guide lines issued by the commission, decide the matter as provided in Rule 56D of the conduct of election Rules.

16.5 For this purpose, the Returning Officer will announce the exact hour and minute up to which he will wait for receiving the written application for recount. When such an application for recount is made, the grounds urged for the recount will be considered and a decision taken by the Returning Officer. He may allow the application in whole or in part if it is reasonable, or he may reject it in toto if it appears to be frivolous or unreasonable. The decision of the Returning Officer will be final. If, in any case, an application for recount either wholly or in part is allowed, the Returning Officer will direct counting of the votes over again. The postal ballot papers may also be recounted if a request is made for their recount and such a request is allowed by the Returning Officer. After such recount has been completed, the result sheet will be amended to the extent necessary and the amendments so made announced. After the total number of votes polled by each candidate has been announced, the result sheet will be completed and signed.

16.6 It should be noted that a candidate or his election agent or any of his counting agents has no right to demand a recount after the Returning Officer has completed and signed the result sheet. Any demand for a recount of votes, made after the result sheet has been completed and signed, will be rejected.

16.7 If votes of a parliamentary constituency are counted at more places than one, then, according to Rule 65 of the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, demand for recount of votes can be made only at the end of counting at the last place fixed for the purpose. Such last place would generally be the Headquarters of the Returning Officer where he would be collating and consolidating the results of the various assembly segments comprised within that parliamentary constituency.

17. ADJOURNMENT OF COUNTING IN CASE OF FRESH POLL

17.1 Before taking any of the steps mentioned in the foregoing para, the Returning Officer will wait for the direction of the Election Commission if he has made any report to it about any voting machine having been found tampered with as mentioned earlier in para 10.4 above. Where the Commission directs a fresh poll to be taken at the affected polling station(s), the counting will be adjourned after the counting process in respect of all other polling stations has been completed.

In such a case all the voting machines and also all other papers relating to elections will be sealed by the Returning Officer. Every candidate or his agent, if he desires to affix his seal on every voting machine and packet, etc., in which the election papers are kept, will be allowed to do so. The counting so adjourned shall be recommenced after the fresh poll has been held, on such date and hour as the Returning Officer may fix in this behalf and completed in accordance with the procedure prescribed above.

17.2 Observers appointed by the Election Commission to watch the conduct of elections have the powers to direct the Returning Officer to stop the counting of votes at any time before the declaration of result or not to declare the result, if in their opinion booth-capturing has taken place at a large number of polling stations or at the counting place or the Electronic voting machine or postal ballot papers are unlawfully taken out of the custody of Returning Officer or are accidentally or intentionally destroyed or lost or damaged or tampered with. The election proceeding in such cases shall proceed further in accordance with such directions of the Election Commission as it may issue on the report of the Observers and after taking all material circumstances into account.

18. RESEALING OF VOTING MACHINES AFTER COUNTING

18.1 After the result of voting recorded in a control unit has been ascertained candidate wise and entered in 'Part II – Result of Counting' of Form 17C and in the Final Result Sheet in Form 20, the returning officer shall reseal the units with his seal and the seals of such of the candidates or their election agents present who may affix the seals thereon so that the result of voting recorded in the unit is not obliterated and the unit retains the memory of such result. Also VVPAT papers slip should be sealed such manner as directed by the Election Commission.

18.2 The aforesaid resealing of control unit shall be done in the following manner:

(i) After completion of counting of votes, EVMs and VVPATs containing printed paper slips in its Drop box, shall be kept in the same strong room without removing Power Packs of Control Units and Power Packs and Paper Rolls of VVPATs.

(i) The outer cover of the Result Section of EVM shall be closed and resealed.

(ii) The control unit of EVM so resealed shall be kept back in its carrying case.

(iii) The carrying case shall be resealed.

(iv) An address tag shall be firmly attached to the handle of the carrying case containing the particulars of the election, name of the constituency, the particulars of polling station where the control unit was used, serial number of the control unit, date of poll, and date of counting.

18.2 The candidates/their election agents or counting agents are also permitted to affix their seals on the voting machines if they so desire. The counting agents are advised in the interest of the candidates whom they represent to ensure that they affix their seals on these machines. It will satisfy their candidates that there is no possibility of the votes recorded therein being tampered with. Where, however, the candidate himself or his election agent has affixed such seal, the counting agents need not affix their separate seals.

Appendix I

(Para 4.9)

[(see rule 52(2)]

Form 18

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTING AGENTS

Election to the .....from the ..... constituency.

To

The Returning Officer,

I,.....*a candidate/the election agent of ……..who is a candidate at the above election, do hereby appoint the following persons as my counting agents to attend the counting of votes at .....

Name of the counting agent Address of the counting agent

1.

2.

3.

etc.

Signature of *candidate/election agents

We agree to act as such counting agents.

1.

2.

3.

etc.

Signature of counting agents

Place .....

Date .....

DECLARATION OF COUNTING AGENTS

(To be signed before the Returning Officer)

We hereby declare that at the above election we will not do anything forbidden by section 128** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which *we have read/has been read over to us.

1.

2.

3.

Signature of counting agents

Place .....

Signed before me

Returning Officer

*Strike off the inappropriate alternative.

**Section 128 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.--

"128. Maintenance of secrecy of voting. _____ (1) Every officer, clerk, agent or other person who performs any duty in connection with the recording of counting of votes at an election shall maintain, and aid in maintaining, the secrecy of the voting and shall not except for some purpose authorised by or under any law communicate to any person any information calculated to violate such secrecy.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine or with both."

APPENDIX II

(Para 4.16)

[See rule 52(4)]

FORM 19

REVOCATIOIN OF APPOINTMENT OF COUNTING AGENT

Election to the *.....

To

The Returning Officer,

I .....(the election agent of .....) a candidate at the above election hereby revoke the appointment of .....my/his counting agent.

Place .....

Date……..

Signature of person revoking

* Here insert one of the following alternatives as may be appropriate :

(1) House of the People from the ..... Constituency.

(2) Legislative Assembly from the ..... Constituency.

(3) Council of States …… Assembly of State.

(4) Council of States by the elected members of the electoral college of ..... (Union Territory).

(5) Legislative Council by the members of the Legislative Assembly.....

(6) Legislative Council from the ..... constituency.

N.B: Omit the words ( ) as necessary.

APPENDIX III

FORM17C

(Para 13.4)

[SEE RULES 49S AND 56C (2)]

PART I – ACCOUNT OF VOTES RECORDED

Election to House of the People/Legislative Assembly of the State/Union Territory
…….....……
from…….....…….. constituency.

Number and Name of Polling Station:
……

Identification Number of voting Machine used at the Polling Station:

Control Unit……...

Balloting Unit…….

Printer (if used)……

1. Total number of electors assigned to the Polling Station
2. Total number of voters as entered in the Register for Voters (Form 17A)
3. Number of voters deciding not to record votes under rule 49-O
4. Number of voters not allowed to vote under rule 49M
5. Test votes recorded under rule 49MA (d) required to be deducted-

(a) total number of test votes to be deducted:

Total No.	Sl. No.(s) of elector(s) in Form 17A
……	…….....…….

(b) Candidate(s) for whom test vote(s) cast:

Sl. No.	Name of candidate	No. of votes
…….	……	…….
…….	……	…….

6. Total number of votes recorded as per voting machine:…….

7. Whether the total number of votes as shown against item 6 tallies with the total number of votes as shown against item 2 minus numbers of voters deciding not to record votes as against item 3 minus number of voters as against item 4(i.e. 2-3-4) or any discrepancy noticed:……

8. Number of voters to whom tendered Ballot papers were issued under rule 49P:
…….....

9. Number of tendered Ballot papers:

	Sl. No.	Total	From	To
(a) received for use	.....			
(b) issued to electors	.....			
(c) not used and returned	.....			

10. Account of papers seals

Signature of polling agents

1. Paper seals supplied for use: Total No.....

   1.....

   Sl. No. from..... To .....

2. Paper seals used: Total No.....

   2.....

   Sl. No. from..... To .....

3. Unused paper seals returned to Returning Officer: Total No.....

   3.....

   Sl. No. from..... To .....

4. Damaged paper seal, if any: Total No.....

   4.....

   Sl. No. from..... To .....

   5.....

   6.....

Date.....

Place.....

Signature of Presiding Officer

Polling Station No.....

PART II

RESULT OF COUNTING

Sl. No. of candidate	Name of candidate	Number of votes as displayed on control unit	Number of test votes to be deducted as per item 5 of Part I	Number of valid votes. (3-4)
1	2	3	4	5
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
N.	NOTA			
Total				

Whether the total number of votes shown above tallies with the total number of votes shown against item 6 of Part I or any discrepancy noticed between the two totals.

Place……..

Date…….

Signature of Returning Officer

Name of candidate/election agent/counting agent Full signature

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Place……..

Date…….

Signature of Returning Officer

ANNEXURE TO PART II OF FORM 17-C

RESULT OF PRINTED PAPER COUNT

Polling Station No. _____ **Total number of VVPATs used:** _____

Unique ID of VVPAT: _____

Sl. No. of candidate	Name of candidate	Number of votes as displayed on control unit	Number of test votes to be deducted as per item 5 of Part I	Number of valid votes.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
N.	NOTA			
Total				

Whether the total number of votes shown above tallies with the total number of votes shown against item 6 of Part I or any discrepancy noticed between the two totals. (YES/NO)

Place……..

Date…….

Signature of Counting Supervisor

Name of candidate/election agent/counting agent Full signature

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Place……..

Date…….

Signature of Returning Officer



"No voter to be left behind"

FEBRUARY 2019
DOCUMENT NO. 24 EDITION 1

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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