

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
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No.648(19)-SEC/1M-20/2015

Date : 18.03.2015

From : The Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

- To : 1) The District Municipal Election Officer for Kolkata Municipal Corporation & District Magistrate, South 24-Parganas.
- 2) The District Municipal Election Officer & District Magistrate, Darjeeling / Cooch Behar / Jalpaiguri / Uttar Dinajpur /Dakshin Dinajpur / Malda / Murshidabad / Purba Medinipur / Paschim Medinipur / Nadia / North 24-Parganas / South 24-Parganas / Howrah / Hooghly / Bankura / Purulia / Burdwan / Birbhum

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

Madam / Sir,

The Commission attaches highest importance to the integrity of process and transparency in the election process in the ensuing Municipal General Elections, 2015 scheduled to be held on 18th April, 2015 for Kolkata Municipal Corporation and 25th April, 2015 for other 92 ULBs respectively. The Commission considers that the presence of the Polling agents appointed by the contesting candidates during the 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 has issued the following instructions:-

1. Candidates may be advised by the Municipal Returning Officers 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.
2. The Presiding Officers shall conduct mock poll, following the instructions, in the presence of the polling agents and prepare and sign the mock poll certificate in the prescribed format enclosed herewith.
3. The Presiding Officer shall mention the names of the agents and the candidates they represent and obtain their signatures for the purpose of record.
4. 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 Presiding Officer may choose to wait 10 minutes more 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 E.V.M. and mention about that in his certificate suitably. Such mock poll process shall have to be completed before 7.00 A.M. positively, so that actual poll can commence at 7.00 A.M. sharp. The Municipal Returning Officers shall suitably brief the Presiding Officers in this respect and ensure that Polling Commences at 7 A.M. without fail.

5. The Municipal Returning Officer 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. Non-confirmation of mock poll could be indicative of some problem on the part of presiding officer or the E.V.M. and hence the Municipal Returning Officers shall make immediate intervention to sort out the problem.
6. The Polling stations not having the presence of rival candidates / Election Agents or Polling Agents 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. Frequent visits by Sector Officers and other Senior Officers should be arranged accordingly.
7. After the completion of poll on the basis of mock poll certifications received from the presiding officers, the Municipal Returning Officers 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 contesting candidate 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.
8. the Commission has decided that EVMs as are available in the district may be used for recording of votes in the Municipal General Elections, 2015 and in such cases, where such facilities of taking print outs from EVMs are not available there is no need to provide or show any printout of the results of the Mock Poll. However, it may be noted that EVMs with identical facilities should be provided and used for a municipality.

The Municipal Returning Officers concerned may kindly be instructed accordingly and the observers may be kept informed.

Encl.: As stated.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Secretary,

West Bengal State Election Commission

No. 648(19) ⁽¹⁶²⁾ SEC/1M-20/2015

Date : 18.03.2015

Copy with copy of the enclosure forwarded for information and necessary action to the :

1. Municipal Returning Officer & Sub Divisional Officer,.....
2.,Municipal Returning Officer for Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
3. Observer,

[Signature]
Secretary,

West Bengal State Election Commission

MOCK POLL CERTIFICATE

This is certified that I Presiding Officer at the Polling Station No. ofConstituency (Ward) of Municipal Corporation / Municipalities conducted the mock poll at A.M. today, the poll day i.e. following the instructions issued by the West Bengal State Election Commission.

A total of votes were polled in the mock poll and after the mock poll I have carefully cleared the memory and the total votes polled showed '0' (Zero) after clearing the memory.

- A. At the time of mock poll the following polling agents representing the candidates whose names mentioned against the names of such agents were present and I have obtained their signatures.

- B. At the time of mock poll the agent of only one contesting candidate was present. After waiting for ten more minutes I conducted the mock poll along with other polling staff at I have mentioned the name of the agent present at the time of mock poll including the name of the candidate whom he represented.

(In case, no agent was present it shall be mentioned "No Polling agent was present at the time of mock poll)

Name of the agent	Name of the Candidate	Signature of the agent
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Date:
Time:

Name & Signature
of the Presiding Officer.