

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
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No. 3964(15)-SEC/1M-20/2013

Date : 26.10.2013

From : The O.S.D & E.O. Joint Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

To : 1) District Municipal Election Officer for Kolkata Municipal Corporation
& District Magistrate, South 24-Parganas.

2) District Municipal Election Officer
& District Magistrate, Cooch Behar / Jalpaiguri /
Darjeeling / North 24-Parganas / South 24-Parganas /
Howrah / Hooghly / Purba Medinipur / Paschim Medinipur/
Burdwan/ Purulia / Bankura / Murshidabad / Nadia.

**Sub.: Facilities to electronic and print media in connection with Municipal
General and Bye-Elections to be held on the 22nd November, 2013.**

Sir,

I am directed to state that the question of allowing facilities to representatives of the print and electronic Media in connection with the ensuing Municipal General and Bye-Elections has been considered by the Commission. It has been decided by the Commission that the Municipal Returning Officer shall open a Media Centre on the day of poll and also on the day of counting of votes at his office under the charge of a responsible officer to brief Press representatives from time to time. Media Centre will also be set up in the Office campus of the District Municipal Election Officer, especially for the purpose of disseminating election related information. Officers of the level of District Information Officer will be put in charge of Media Centre and their contact address and telephone numbers are to be circulated in advance.

2. There is also no objection, subject to the maintenance of peace and order, to any photographer taking photographs of voters queuing up outside the Polling Stations. No Press representative or photographer shall however be allowed inside a Polling Station unless so authorised, on behalf of the Commission. Under any circumstances, however, no photograph will be allowed to be taken of an elector casting his vote. Similarly during counting of votes no press representative will be allowed any entry in the counting hall or to take photograph unless so authorised on behalf of the Commission.

3. It is decided by the Commission that District Magistrates in their capacity as District Municipal Election Officer will issue the necessary authority to the electronic and print media on behalf of the Commission, for entry inside a polling station / counting centre adopting the following principle :

A. The District Information Officer of the District will sponsor or forward the application of accredited media persons including representative of electronic media to the District Magistrates.

B. Each applicant should give full particulars including his / her name, designation, news agency / newspaper / periodicals / electronic channel which the applicant represents and the name of the Municipal Corporation / Municipality he / she proposes to cover. For an electronic media team with more than one person authority letter for each of the member will be required.

C. It should be made clear to the media persons that for coverage of actual polling inside the polling station on the strength of the authority letter, entry inside the polling station can be allowed by the Presiding Officers after verification of the authority letters subject to the restriction that media persons will not be allowed under any circumstances to go near the voting compartments to take photographs so that the secrecy of the vote is not violated. However they will be allowed inside in small numbers in batches and the actual number will be determined taking into account the size of the room, space available and other relevant factors.

4. It is also clarified that the Municipal Returning Officer or the District Municipal Election Officer would not provide transport to Press people for their movement in the polling area. They may, however if requested, assist Press people in procuring transport at their own expense.

Proforma of Authority letters for entry in polling station and counting halls are enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
O.S.D & E.O. Joint Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

No. 3964(15)/1-SEC/1M-20/2013

Date : 26.10.2013

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the Director of Information, I & CA Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

Sd/
O.S.D & E.O.
Joint Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

Authority Letter
(For entry/ Re-entry in polling stations)

(Not Transferable)

SL. No. :

Date of Issue :

The State Election Commission hereby authorizes the entry / re-entry of

Shri / Smt. / Kumari _____

representing _____

for visiting the Polling Stations _____ on the day of
poll i.e. on 22nd November, 2013 in the ensuing Municipal General Elections.

Terms and conditions for use of this authority are given below.

By order of the
West Bengal State Election Commission

District Municipal Election Officer
& District Magistrate.....

**Terms and Conditions for the use of
This Authority Letter are given below:**

1. This authority letter is issued subject to the specific condition that the bearer of this authority letter shall, at all times, obey all directions of the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Offices, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, Magistrates and Police Officers on duty.
2. This authority letter is not transferable and shall be used only by the person named above. The Presiding Officer shall satisfy himself about the identity of the holder of the authority letter. Use of this by any person other than the one named herein is a serious offence and would make the offender liable to appropriate legal action.
3. The person shall carry photo identity card and visiting card issued by the organization which he/she represents for easy identification.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

Authority Letter
(For entry/ Re-entry in Counting Centres)

(Not Transferable)

SL. No. :

Date of Issue :

The State Election Commission hereby authorizes the entry / re-entry of

Shri/ Smt./ Kumari _____

representing _____

for visiting the counting centres set up at _____ for counting of
votes of Municipal General Elections held on 25th November, 2013.

Terms and conditions for use of this authority are given below.

By order of the
West Bengal State Election Commission

.....
Signature of the holder

District Municipal Election Officer &
District Magistrate.....

**Terms and Conditions for the use of
This Authority Letter are given below:**

1. This authority letter is issued subject to the specific condition that the bearer of this authority letter shall, at all times, obey all directions of the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Offices, Magistrates and Police Officers on duty.
2. This authority letter is not transferable and shall be used only by the person named above. The Returning Officer / Assistant Returning Officer in charge of Counting shall satisfy himself about the identity of the holder of the authority letter. Use of this by any person other than the one named above is a serious offence and would make the offender liable to appropriate legal action.
3. The person shall carry photo identity card and visiting card issued by the organization which he/she represents for easy identification.