ELECTION URGENT

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
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No. 3951(15)-SEC/1M-20/2013   Date : 25.10.2013

From :   The 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.

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

Madam / Sir,

          The Commission attaches highest importance to the integrity of process and
transparency in the election process in the ensuing Municipal General Elections to 5(five)
Urban Local Bodies and Bye-Elections to 29(twenty nine) Municipal Constutuencies
(Wards) scheduled to be held on 22nd November, 2013. 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 <u>**30 minutes before the**</u>
                commencement of actual poll. In case where even two agents of different

candidates are not present, the Presiding Officer may choose to wait 10 more minutes 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. <u>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.</u> 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 Officers 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. <u>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.</u>

7. After the completion of poll on the basis of mock poll certifications received from the presiding officers, the Municipal Returning Officers <u>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</u> 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 ensuing Municipal General & Bye-Elections, 2013 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, <u>it may be noted that EVMs with identical facilities should be provided and used for a municipality.</u>

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

Yours faithfully,

Enclo.: As stated.

Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

No. 3951(15)/1(38)-SEC/1M-20/2013   **Date : 25.10.2013**

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

1. Smt. Soma Shaw, WBCS(Ex.), Municipal Returning Officer for KMC, Ward No.-1 & Assistant Election Officer, District Election Office, 63, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001.

2. Sri Tanay Deb Sarkar, WBCS(Ex.), Municipal Returning Officer for KMC, Ward No.-24 & Deputy Director, Panchayats & RD, 63, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001.

3. The Municipal Returning Officer & Sub-Divisional Officer, Dinhata / Cooch Behar(Sadar)/ Mal / Jalpaiguri (Sadar) / Siliguri / Barrackpore / Bidhannagar / Barasat / Alipore (Sadar)/ Chandernagar / Raghunathpur / Purulia(Sadar) / Egra/ Asansol / Lalbagh / Bankura (Sadar) / Howrah(Sadar) / Midnapur(Sadar) / Jhargram / Berhampur(Sadar) / Krishnanagar(Sadar).

4. The Observer, ...

Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

MOCK POLL CERTIFICATE

This is certified that I .... Presiding Officer at the Polling Station No. of ....Constituency (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

Date:
Time:

                                    Name & Signature
                                    of the Presiding Officer.