



OFFICE OF THE
ELECTION AUTHORITY
UNDER PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989
(CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, JAMMU & KASHMIR)
2ND FLOOR VIKAS BHAWAN, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU

The District Panchayat Election Officer,
(Deputy Commissioner),
Kupwara/Baramulla/Bandipora/Ganderbal/Srinagar/Budgam/
Pulwama/Shopian/Kulgam/Anantnag/Kishtwar/Doda/Leh/Kargil
Ramban/Udhampur/Reasi/Kathua/Jammu/ Rajouri/Poonch.
The Senior Superintendent of Police,
Kupwara/Baramulla/Bandipora/Ganderbal/Srinagar/Budgam/
Pulwama/Shopian/Kulgam/Anantnag/Kishtwar/Doda/Leh/Kargil
Ramban/Udhampur/Reasi/Kathua/Jammu/ Rajouri/Poonch.

No. 5309/Pyt/2011/5354-96

Dated: 23/04/2011

Sub.- Appointment of Polling Agents in Panchayat Elections -2011 – Comprehensive instructions/directions – Regarding.

Sir Madam,

Your kind attention is drawn to the fact that in order to conduct free and fair polls, Election Authority (EA) has decided to issue following instructions:-

1. Candidates should appoint only such persons as their polling agents who are registered electors in same Panchayat where they have been appointed and who have an EPIC or any other document issued by the Govt or any Government agency which bears his/her photograph and establishes his/her identity. All polling agents shall display their EPIC or other identification document prominently on their persons on the day of poll for easy and quick identification. No outsider should be appointed as the polling agent.

2. Further, the EA standing directions as contained in Chapter-IV of Handbook for Presiding Officers *inter-alia* provide that the set up of polling stations should be so arranged that polling agents are seated in such a way that they can see the face of an elector as and when he enters the polling station so that they can challenge the identity of the elector, if needed. They should also be able to watch entire operation inside the polling station including his/her movement to the voting compartment and his/her exit from the polling station after recording his/her vote. But they should not, in any event, be seated in a place where they have the chance of seeing voter actually recording his/her vote in voting compartment;

3. The EA has further directed to bring in to the notice of all concerned that following instructions be followed scrupulously:-

- (i) the polling agents who are appointed by contesting candidates shall be **ordinarily resident and electors of the concerned Panchayat or polling stations only**,
- (ii) Such polling agents must have electors' photo identity cards.
- (iii) if any person who is a registered elector in the concerned Panchayat and proposed to be appointed as polling agent by the contesting candidate but does not have Elector's Photo Identity

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Card, in that case, the Returning Officer shall ask polling /counting agent to have any other identification proof as already notified in list of documents required for voting;

(iv) all polling agents shall display their Elector's Photo Identity Card prominently on their persons on the day of poll for easy and quick identification.

(v) the set up of polling stations should be made in such a way that the polling agents are seated inside the polling stations so that they may see the face of an elector as and when he enters the polling station so that they can challenge the identity of the elector, if needed. They should also be able to watch entire operation inside the polling station including his/her movement to the voting compartment and his/her exit from the polling station after recording his/her vote. But they should not, in any event, be seated in a place where they have the chance of seeing voter actually recording his/her vote which would compromise secrecy of voting.

(vi) in case polling station has very small & insufficient space or where the respective constituency is having abnormally large number of contesting candidates warranting the presence of a large number of polling agents, in such cases where all the polling agents can not be accommodated, Observer(s) shall be consulted for appropriate advice and consent of the RO/ DPEO / Observer(s) shall be obtained.

(vii) for identifying such polling stations having very small & insufficient space or where the respective constituency is having abnormally large number of contesting candidates warranting the presence of a large number of polling agents, the District Panchayat Election Officer shall make survey well in advance, so that appropriate decisions may be arrived at well in time. A list of such polling stations shall be prepared and provided to concern Observer(s).

4. These instructions/directions may be brought to the notice of all the District Panchayat Election Officers/Returning Officers/ Astd. Returning Officers for bringing the contents of this instruction to the notice of Presiding Officers/Polling Officers during their training and other election related officers immediately for strict compliance.

6. Copy of these instructions shall also be forwarded to all the contesting candidates and shall be brought to the notice of the electors as well through a suitable press release.

Matter may be treated as Election urgent.

Yours faithfully,

 23/4/2011
(Puneet Sharma)KAS

Deputy Chief Electoral officer
Jammu.

1-2) Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.

3-4) IGP Jammu/ Kashmir.

5-6) Director, Rural Development Department, Kashmir/Jammu.

7) Special Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Law, Justice and parliamentary Affairs for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.

8) Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for the kind information of the Chief Secretary.

9-10) Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmir/Jammu