The Director General of Police,
Jammu and Kashmir,
Jammu.

No. 532/CEO/PYT/2011/-3703 -56
Dated: 06-04-2011


Sir,

The Election Authority has, in the past issued various instructions on the deployment of forces from time to time to ensure the conduct of peaceful, free and fair Panchayat Elections 2011 in the many videoconferences chaired by Chief Electoral Officer, J&K. The points which have to be kept in mind while preparations of security plan are:-

a) An adequate number of existing police forces including Armed and Territorial Police wings will be deployed for the conduct of Panchayat Election 2011. These can be further augmented by induction and deployment of the available Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) for ensuring free, fair and peaceful conduct of elections.

b) The District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO, Deputy Commissioner) of the district shall be actively associated in drawing up the District Panchayat Deployment Plan. His recommendations on what quantum of forces should be deployed to which Panchayat /Panch Constituency shall merit serious consideration in drawing up the plan. The State Panchayat Deployment Plan will factor in the requirements of the different districts based on District Deployment Plans which will be prepared by every district taking into account the forces being made available by the DGP, J&K. The District Deployment Plan shall be formulated and finalized under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate/District Panchayat Election Officer.

c) Both the State Deployment Plan and District Deployment Plan would be finalized at least one week before the day of poll for each block in phased manner.

d) In the District Deployment Plan, it shall be ensured that all polling stations are covered with adequate static duty reinforced by necessary mobile patrolling at the level of "zones" and "sectors". Particular attention should be paid to deploy one or two persons from available CPMFs in constituencies and polling stations identified as sensitive / hyper sensitive.

e) Among others the following may be considered as guiding factors in identifying sensitive and trouble prone areas/polling booths:-
i. Past history of the constituency or the polling area;
ii. Incidents of Booth Capturing, violence, riots, large-scale impersonation etc;
iii. Information regarding abnormal law & order situation in particular area;
iv. Specific complaints made by political parties and candidates;
v. Nature of contest viz political status of candidates;
vi. Political rivalries;
vii. Number of history sheeters and absconders; and
viii. Number of SC/ST electors etc.

f) Deployment of any force other than State’s own uniformed police force (for example, Village Defence Force, Home guards, Adhoc Auxiliary force etc.) will require prior approval of the Authority.

g) Whenever area domination by State Armed police (SAP) is needed, the SAP will undertake area domination etc. till 2 days before the polling day (P-2). After that they shall be drafted for static duty at polling stations. In militancy affected area, CPMF may be deployed for active election related duty other than static duty at polling booths such as mobile patrols with magistrates, area pickets, check gates and quick reaction teams located in specific areas etc. Such exceptions shall have to be approved by Election Observer for the block or Election authority for inter-district/ blocks duties. The central forces shall not be deployed or kept as “reserve” at any level. In rarest of the rare cases, when they are to be deployed as "reserve"

   (a) prior Election Authority approval shall be obtained and

   (b) they should be equipped with suitable communication and mobility facilities for contingent deployment and movement on short notice. However, the proposal to retain some of the Police contingents as “reserve” should be discussed with the Observer and should be sent to the Election Authority through DPEO of the District for specific permission of the Authority. The justification for such request shall be clearly brought out in the proposal. It is made clear that as a matter of policy, the Authority favours, the deployment of Police on poll day on static duty at polling stations invariably.

h) It may be ensured that one jawan from the SAP/JKAP party posted at the polling station will be stationed at the entrance of the polling station so that he can keep a watch on the proceedings that are going on inside the polling station, particularly, to ensure that no unauthorized person enters inside the polling station and / or no irregularity is committed either by the polling staff or outsiders in the poll process. In the buildings which have more than one polling station and

   where only half a section of the JKAP personnel is deployed, the JKAP Jawan selected for duty at the entrance of the polling station may be asked to oscillate from one polling station to other and look at what is going on inside these polling stations and report to the officer in charge of the JKAP party or observer, if something unusual is observed by him. It is also clarified that JKAP jawan posted at the entrance of the Polling Station
shall not verify the identity of electors coming into the polling stations to cast their votes as such verification is the duty of the polling personnel.

i) The specific things on which a JKAP Jawan posted at the entrance of the polling stations are expected to keep an watch are as under –

   (i) No unauthorized person is present inside the polling station at any time during the poll.

   (ii) The polling party or the polling agents do not attempt to cast or cast any vote or votes when no voter is present inside the polling booth.

   (iii) No polling officer accompanies any voter to the voting compartment.

   (iv) No polling agent or polling officer threatens any voter or makes any gesture to threaten them.

   (v) No arms are carried inside the polling station.

   (vi) No silent rigging takes place.

j) If the Police jawan posted at the entrance of the polling station discovers violation of the election process as above or observes something unusual going on inside the polling station, he shall not interfere in the poll process but report the same to the Officer incharge of the Police party at polling station or observer. The Officer incharge of Police party will in turn send this information to the Returning Officer and also Observer on the same day in writing for further necessary action. The Returning Officers/Observer will report cases from where adverse reports are received from the Police parties for further instructions of the Authority.

   (i) Police / CPMF shall be used during the pre-poll period for the purpose of area domination, conducting flag marches, confidence building among the electors and checking of border areas etc.

   (ii) The District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police shall finalize the sensitivity of polling stations giving the reasons in accordance with the instructions of the Authority. This list shall be kept ready and finalized on arrival of the observers after consulting them.

   (iii) The forces shall be deployed at the polling stations in the following order of sensitivity (from higher to lower) - State Armed Police (SAP) followed by District Armed Police (DAP).

   (iv) At places requiring two sections of force, one section of SAP and one section of DAP can be used to maximize the coverage by Police.

k) It will be the responsibility of the District Magistrate concerned and Superintendent of Police concerned to ensure that the polling parties and state armed force parties reach polling booths in time as scheduled.

l) The Observers appointed by the Authority should also be provided with adequate security.

m) The Authority has directed that for guarding the useable and un-useable statutory and non-statutory election material after the completion of poll by armed Police personnel shall be used. To the extent possible, SAP should be used for the purpose. Wherever, SAP is not available, DAP shall be used.
n) The District Magistrate and SSP concerned must also ensure that adequate and fool-proof security arrangements are made, both inside and around the counting centres as well to prevent incident that are likely to vitiate the counting process. For this purpose, it should be ensured that adequate security forces preferably CPMF should be present at all the counting centres.

o) The deployment of forces within the district and at the polling booths as per the district deployment plan shall be the responsibility of the concerned District Superintendent of Police and officers below him.

p) The DGP shall provide adequate facilities and make necessary arrangements as needed, for transport and accommodation of the SAP/DAP deployed.

q) Similarly, in view of the phasing of elections, the District Magistrate /SSP shall seal inter-state borders/inter-district borders well in advance to prevent infiltration of antisocial and disruptive elements from neighbouring states /districts/blocks where polls are not being held.

The above instructions may be strictly adhered to, treating the matter as Election/Most Urgent.

Yours faithfully,

(B.R. Sharma) IAS
Election Authority
Under Panchayati Raj Act, 1989
(Chief Electoral Officer, J&K)
Jammu

Copy for inf and n/a to the:-
1-2 Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.
3-4 IGP Jammu/ Kashmir
5-27 District Magistrates ( DPEO) 
28-50. SSP for information.
51-52 Director, Rural Development Department, Kashmir/Jammu.
53 Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for the kind information of the Chief Secretary.
54-55. Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmir/Jammu.