



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

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

No. 5330/CEO/PYT/2011/ 8653-81

Dated: 02-04-2011

**Sub:- Arrangements for Counting of votes- thereof.**

Sir/ Madam,

Your kind attention is drawn to Rule 35 to 38 of the J&K Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 wherein a detailed and elaborate procedure for counting of voters has been prescribed. You may also refer to chapter XV of the Handbook for Returning Officer, wherein the provisions laid under the Rules 35 to 38 of the Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 have been further the elaborated.

In this regard, you may further refer to this office letter No: 5188/Pyt/RO(ARO)/2011/1822-46 dated 02.03.2011 wherein detailed instructions were issued that one Returning Officer assisted by at least two AROs shall be responsible / appointed for the conduct of elections for a cluster of three Panchayats. The above instructions would have meant that on the day of counting while the counting of votes in one Panchayat ( i.e. Sarpanch + Panch constituency falling within that Panchayat ) will be personally supervised by the RO himself, the counting of votes in the remaining two Panchayats shall be taken up under the supervision of the two AROs' . **However, the result of the counting shall be formally declared by the Returning Officer only.**

Therefore, the counting of votes can be taken up either at RO level or ARO level. The counting of votes for at RO level would necessitate that the ballot boxes for all the Panch / Sarpanch constituencies within that clusters under the control of RO will be brought to one central location / RO Headquarter which should have ample space of at least 2 Rooms and a big hall which can accommodate at least 4 tables for the counting of votes. Similarly, the counting of votes at ARO level would require that counting for that particular Panchayat and all the Panch constituency therein will be held under the

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supervision of ARO and he will be responsible for counting of votes at the ARO / Panchayat headquarter which would be located in a building having at least one room and a big hall which can accommodate at least 4 tables. In such a situation the ARO will count votes under his supervision and the result sheet will be got signed by candidates / counting agents who are present at the time of counting. The ARO will then take the signed result sheet and the result shall be formally declared by RO himself.

The issue whether the counting of votes should be taken up at the RO level or at the ARO level was discussed by the Election Authority (CEO J&K) with the DPEOs' during the course of a number of meetings and it was decided that a final decision in this regard will be taken by the concerned DPEOs' (Deputy Commissioners') who will prepare a counting plan for the District / Blocks in consultation with District SSPs' keeping in view the local requirements including security consideration. However, the counting plan prepared by DPEOs' shall be submitted to the Election Authority for its approval.

I am therefore directed to request you to submit the counting plan adopted by you. The DPEO Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Kulgam and Budgam where elections are being held in initial phases should seek approval for counting plan within two days. For rest of the DPEOs', approval may be sought within a weeks' time. Measures related to infrastructure, transportation of ballot boxes to the counting centres and security concerns etc. should be kept in mind while submitting proposal for counting plan.

Matter may be treated as **Most Urgent**.

Yours faithfully,

  
Dy. Chief Electoral Officer, J&K  
Jammu (Time :- 3:35 PM)  
2.04.2011

1. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu for information.
2. Director, Rural Development Department, Kashmir/Jammu for information and necessary action.
3. Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for the kind information of the Chief Secretary.
4. Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmir/Jammu for information