

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

NO. 51/8/6/2019-EMPS

Dated: 27th August, 2019

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Storage and Safety arrangements of EVMs and VVPATs-Not to keep any material in
EVM/VVPAT warehouse/Strong-room- Regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Commission's letter No. 51/8/6/2018-EMS, dated 21st June, 2018, whereby it was directed that unused EVMs and VVPATs including training/awareness EVMs and VVPATs and EVMs and VVPATs replaced prior to the start of actual polls and other miscellaneous election related materials should NOT be kept in the Strong-room where polled EVMs and VVPATs are kept after poll and counting of votes. It has come to notice of the Commission that non-election materials are kept in the strong room where polled EVMs and VVPAT are stored after poll and counting of votes. The Commission has taken serious note in this regard.

The Commission reiterates that

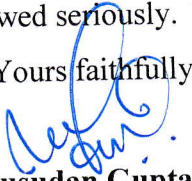
(i) unused EVMs and VVPATs including training/awareness EVMs and VVPATs and EVMs and VVPATs replaced prior to the start of actual polls and other miscellaneous election related materials should NOT be kept in the Strong-room where polled EVMs and VVPATs are kept after poll and counting of votes.

(ii) Further, it is directed that the EVM/VVPAT warehouse/Strong room shall have only EVMs and VVPATs i.e. no other material whether non-election related or election related (except the documents/materials prescribed by the Commission to be kept with the polled EVMs/VVPATs) should be kept with the EVMs and VVPATs.

(iii) It is further directed that the building where temporary strong rooms are made should be handed over in its erstwhile condition i.e. after removing any modification done such as sealed windows etc., as soon as possible even if another election is expected within the next few months.

You are, accordingly, requested to ensure the compliance of the above direction of the Commission. Any deviation from the above direction of the Commission shall be viewed seriously.

Yours faithfully,


(Madhusudan Gupta)
Under Secretary