



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/Leh/Kargil/Kishtwar/Doda/Ramban/Reasi/
Udhampur/Kathua/Samba/Jammu/Rajouri/Poonch

No. 5024/PE/PBP/2011/5257-85. Dated: 21-04-2011

Subject: **Conduct of Panchayat Elections, 2011 – Clarification regarding pre-folding of ballot papers – regarding.**

Sir,

Your kind attention is drawn to the fact that clarifications are being sought by some of the District Panchayat Election Officers (Deputy Commissioners) regarding pre-folding of ballot papers during polling at Polling stations.

In this regard, your kind attention is also drawn to the item No.8.6 of Chapter VIII (Commencement and Conduct of the Poll) of Handbook for Presiding Officers, which lays down as under:-

8.6. Pre-folding of ballot paper:-

Before a ballot paper is handed over to an elector for making his vote thereon, the Polling Officer incharge of ballot papers will fold the same first vertically and then horizontally in such a way that the signature of the Polling Officer on the back of the ballot paper is clearly visible at the top right hand corner. He will then unfold the ballot paper and hand it over to the elector.

P. J. Chawla
21/04/11

In case of ballot paper where the number of the contesting candidates exceeds 9, the mode of folding the ballot paper will be different. In such a case the ballot paper may be folded vertically first in the middle of each of the two halves and thereafter the third fold may be made along the shaded vertical line dividing the two halves. It should then be folded horizontally in such a manner that the signature of the Presiding Officer on the back of the ballot paper is clearly visible at the top right hand corner. He will then unfold the same and hand it over to the elector.

The above said instructions may be complied with strictly in letter and spirit, under an intimation to this office.

Matter may be treated as **ELECTION URGENT.**

Yours faithfully,

B.R. Sharma 21.04.11.
(B.R. Sharma) IAS
Election Authority
Under Panchayati Raj Act, 1989
Chief Electoral Officer,
J&K, Jammu

Copy to the:-

1. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu for information.
2. State Informatics Officer, NIC, J&K, Jammu with the request to host the letter in the website.
3. Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu/Kashmir for information.
4. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for information of the worthy Chief Secretary, J&K.