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

ONo. 537/Pyt/2011/ 540-31

Dated: 23/04/2011

Sub.- Security of Counting Halls in Panchayat Election -2011 – Regarding.

Sir Madam,

Your kind attention is drawn to the fact that a report has been received from the District Panchayat Election officer, Budgam wherein it has been indicated that one RO of Chadoora block was manhandled and harassed by one of the contesting candidates and his supporters who had entered the counting hall and as a result of thereof RO was forced to issue the certificate of Election in favour of a candidate who had otherwise lost the election. This incident clearly indicates the undesirable consequences which can result due to the lack of adequate security in and around the counting centers'. In order to avoid similar situation in future, Election Authority (EA) has decided to issue following instructions. The following persons alone repeat alone shall be allowed entry inside the counting Hall:-

- i) counting staff i.e. counting supervisors and counting assistants;
- ii) Persons authorised by the Election Authority;
- iii) Public servants on duty in connection with the election;
- iv) candidates, their election agents and counting agents.

However, public servants on duty will not include the Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Union and States and the Speaker/Chairman of the State Legislative Assemblies/Councils. Similarly, no security personal accompanying, if any, a candidate or his election agent or counting agent shall be permitted to enter the counting hall. It has further decided by EA, a candidate can appoint only one counting agent for each of counting tables to be

provided by the RO/ARO. One other person shall be allowed to enter to the counting hall without the written permission of District Panchayat Election officer.

These instructions/directions may be brought to the notice of all the Returning Officers/ Astt. Returning Officers for bringing the contents to the notice of Presiding Officers/Polling Officers/ Counting staff during their training and other election related officers immediately for strict compliance. A copy of these instructions shall also be forwarded to all the contesting candidates. It shall be the personal responsibility of all District Panchayat Election officers'/ District Magistrates and concerned SSPs' to ensure that adequate security arrangements are made in and around all designated counting centers'/ premises and same should be depicted in the security plan for the block going for poll.

**Matter may be treated as Election urgent.**

Yours faithfully,

  
(Puneet Sharma) KAS

**Deputy Chief Electoral officer  
Jammu.**

Copy to the:-

- 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