



STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ODISHA

Toshali Bhawan, B-2, 1st Floor, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar – 751007 (Odisha)

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Letter No. 2795

Date 13/02/2022

From:

Shri R.N. Sahu, IAS
Secretary.

To

All Collectors

Sub: Counting of Votes at Block Headquarters- **Clarification thereof.**

Madam/Sir,

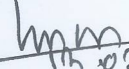
I am directed to say that the queries have been received regarding the validity of Ballot Paper when one voter has recorded his vote in the prefold portion and another vote against one of the contesting candidate

2. The Panchayat Election Rules says that a Ballot Paper is liable for rejection if votes are recorded in favour of more than one candidate.
3. In the instant case even if the voter has recorded his vote against one contesting candidate and another against a symbol which has been prefolded before, the intention of voter is clear and the same cannot be considered as recording vote in favour of more than one candidate.
4. The Commission vide letter no. 2726 dated 13.02.2012 has clarified that votes recorded in favour of the contesting shall be considered, provided it is not otherwise invalid (copy enclosed).
5. The above clarification shall be made applicable for counting of votes for General Election to PRIs, 2022.

All concerned shall be informed accordingly.

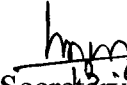
N.B- See the Illustration overleaf.

Yours faithfully,


15.02.2022
Secretary

Memo No. ^{279E.} /SEC., Date: 13/02/2022

Copy forwarded to all BDOs/District Panchayat Officers for information and necessary action.


Secretary 13.02.2022

Illustration

There are 4 candidates for the post of Sarpanch in 'X' Grama panchayat. Accordingly 6 symbols of the Ballot Paper (already printed with 10 symbols) are to be prefolded so that four symbols of the contesting candidates are visible to the voter. The voter has cast his vote against the symbol at Sl.No.2. It may so happen that the prefolded portion may be opened by the voter and he has cast another vote against symbol at Sl.No.8. In this case even though the voter has double stamped the ballot paper, the intention of the voter is clear when he has stamped against the symbol at Sl. No. 2. The voting at Sl .No.8. is not against any candidate. Hence, vote cast against the candidate at Sl .No. 2. shall be taken into account and the ballot paper shall be deemed as valid.

113 FEB 2012
NABARANGPUR

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, ODISHA,
TOSHALI B IAWAN, B-2, FIRST FLOOR,
SATYANAG, R, BHUBANESWAR-751007

RO

No. 8726 /SEC

Date: 13.02.2012

From

Sri M. D. Barik, IAS
Secretary.

KDM.

To

The Collector,
Nabarangpur.

Sub:- Clarification on counting of the votes under PRI laws.

Ref:- Your Letter No.279 dated 07.02.2012.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to your letter on the subject cited above, I am directed to clarify that both the Rules provide that Ballot paper shall be liable for rejection if votes are recorded in favour of more than one candidate. In the instant case since the elector has recorded his vote in the prefold portion, definitely it is not in favor of one of the contesting candidate. Hence, the ballot paper voted in favour of a contesting candidate shall be considered, provided it is not otherwise invalid.

Yours faithfully,


13.2.12
Secretary

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19/2/12

1. Secy
2. Secy
3. Secy

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