



भारत सरकार /GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय/MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड/RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2024/SBEC-III/Elections

रेल भवन, नई दिल्ली – 110 001, तिथि :

Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, dated: 14.11.2024

Record Notes of the Review meeting (Video Conference) taken by Secret Ballot Election Committee (SBEC) with PCPOs & Returning Officers on 12.11.2024

PRESENT

SBEC

Rajiv Kishore, Chairman/SBEC

Alok Kumar, Member SBEC

Rajiv Gandhi, ED/E/RRB Railway Board &

Member Secy./SBEC

Railway Board

Renu Sharma, PED/IR

Actionable points emerging from the meeting are as under:

- 1) **Ballot Boxes procurement**- All units on track for procurement of Ballot boxes. NR, WR, ECR are getting Ballot boxes from respective CEOs and other railways are purchasing at their own level.
- 2) **Indelible Ink**- Work order placed by all units for Indelible ink pen. For the state of Maharashtra and Jharkhand where state assembly elections are to be held before TU elections concerned, ROs can issue suitable orders for inking either the finger on other hand or thumb as they deem fit.
- 3) **CCTV installation**: SER and SECR are yet to finalise the mode of procurement, which needs to be closed through their respective Telecom depts.
- 4) **Complaints received regarding electoral practices violation**- Units should give cumulative numbers of complaints received and their disposal in the Daily Monitor.
- 5) **Booth Location**- All PCPOs confirmed that the Booths have been inspected at officer level and they meet the laid down instructions including those issued on 6th and 7th Nov by Chairman SBEC.
- 6) **Printing Paper arrangements** - All PCPOs confirmed that arrangements are in place for printing of Ballot papers.

7) Postal Ballot System (PBS)- ER raised the issue of reaching out to beneficiaries of PBS. Chairman/SBEC drew attention to importance of instructions pertaining to

PBS as provided in Ann VI of the Final Modalities and subsequent clarifications. He emphasised the importance of start identifying voters eligible for PBS, especially those on deputation to Construction/RE and undergoing training etc. Suitable endorsements need to be made in the Voters List of lien holding office for people on deputation. The establishment Clerk has very important role in making appropriate remarks against employees on deputation. Presiding Officers must check on this aspect and ROs should make sample checks as the entire basis of correct accountal of electorate depends on this. At end of every Voter list a table has been shown which should be carefully filled up. The total electorate shall be arrived at by summing these numbers. NO MISTAKE SHALL BE ACCEPTABLE AS IT CAN CHANGE THE WHOLE RESULT.

Regarding choice between Franking and pasting of stamps on pre-stamped envelopes it was decided that each unit may have system of its choice and convenience. However the matter should get finalised soon.

PCPO/NFR suggested to have different colour ballot paper for PBS, which was agreed to. Each unit may have its own colour scheme.

8) Delivery of Postal Ballot: NCR stated that in last election voted Postal Ballot was sent through PO to RO. while in SBE III it is to be sent to RO directly. It was clarified that in view of complaints, the change has been made

Delivery of Postal Ballot paper to the beneficiaries can be made by special messengers but receiving of the ballot paper will not be done by the special messenger. It was clarified that postal ballot beneficiary should personally drop her/his vote in Drop Box kept at HQ office by RO or post it in the pre-stamped envelop. Postal ballots after being cast by voters should not be collected by any railway authority for delivery to RO

9) Voting option for staff posted in small outstation offices: PCPO/WR stated that in one of their office outside the zone there were only 14 voters so they may be allowed PBS facility. PCPO/CLW too cited two offices outside CLW with 10 employees each. Such staff are not covered under the PBS facility as per Ann VI. One of the objectives is also to keep the PBS beneficiaries to the minimum and is to be adopted as the last resort.

After deliberation it was decided that the most efficient solution would be to have an officer deputed to these outstation offices, get the voters to vote in a confidential manner as is done in a polling booth and bring the duly voted ballot papers in the sealed Ballot box and hand it over to the Presiding officer. It is the existing polling booth system with modification in view of unique requirements and also to make the process efficient from cost and time angles.

Since the number of staff is only a handful in such outstation offices the election shall be held only for one day for which an officer would be deputed as a Polling officer who with the help of the senior most staff of the outstation office organise the voting, sealing of Ballot box etc. The Unions may depute their Polling agents who would be eligible for Spl. CL only for the polling day. If need be a staff may accompany the Polling officer who may be given the benefit of PBS as available to Polling staff. The Polling authorities shall be entitled for honorarium at half the rate as permissible to Polling staff who perform regular election duty.

In order to ensure that the accountal of votes is done without any error because of these outstation polling booths the names of the voters posted in these outstation offices should be blocked in the original Voter list and fresh Voter list for the

Outstation office be prepared. The deletion of names and addition of names of new voter list should be exactly the same. ROs may get it confirmed from PO.

10) **Union seeking vehicle facility for transporting voters:** It was clarified there was no such provision. Chairman said that it is a punishable offence if a person hires or procures a vehicle for providing free conveyance to voters. Refer item A(2) of Ann. II of Final Modalities.

Only facility of Special Passes facility can be availed of for which letter has been issued by Rly Bd. (Letter no. 2024/E(W)/01/07/3 dated 07.11.2024.)

11) **ER raised the issue of voting by person who is on sick leave/admitted as indoor patient:** Chairman replied that no facility can be provided for voting by persons admitted as indoor patients /on sick leave.

12) On the issue of marking of the ballot paper under PBS, ROs can decide the marking by either putting tick or cross sign. They can issue instructions on their own under 22 of Final Modalities.

13) CR pointed out that person accompanying the voters under Section 13 (Persons under Disabilities Act) to the booth to vote should not carry any symbol that may reveal his affiliations and influence the voters. ROs/PCPOs may issue suitable guidelines under Section 22 and take declaration in Ann V of Final Modalities.

14) **Reporting Format:** Board vide letter dated 15.10.2024 has issued instructions regarding the reporting format of the proceeding of the Election process as per Annexure P, Q, R, & S. All ROs/Pos should familiarise themselves well them.

15) **Status of appointment of Polling Officers and Polling Staff:** Chairman emphasised that appointment of Polling Officer and other polling staff need to be expedited so that their training can be held early. On query from WR it was clarified that as per Corrigendum 3 dated 19.9.2024, the Polling officer cannot be the controlling Officer of that office where polling booth is set up. PCPO WR raised the issue of logistic difficulties in abiding by these instructions. Chairman clarified that there can be no violation of Corrigendum 3 and if need be Ch. OS from offices should be sent as Polling officer.

16) **Transportation of Ballot Box:** ECoR pointed out that many of their booths were such where the ballot box containing the votes could not be stored in a strong room near the booth. They want to carry the boxes to divisional HQ everyday after polling. Units may decide as per their requirements.

17) **Zonal Voters' List:** Chairman SBEC asked the ROs to prepare zonal Voters List by merging the PO wise Voters' List on the basis of uniform fields over column 1-9. Two consecutive FVL should be distinguished by alternating scheme. The merged Final Voter list should be sent by mail to SBEC.

18) **Additional Funds requirement was projected as under:**

- i. **Metro Railway** - will need fund for EVM pilot project. Advised to send their head-wise requirement.
- ii. **CR** - Minor requirement.
- iii. **ER**- Some additional funds might be required.

- iv. ECOR - additional funds required.
- v. NR- have adequate fund.
- vi. NCR - **Jhansi** and **Allahabad** division needs extra fund for CCTV.
- vii. NER - will manage from the allotted funds.
- viii. NFR- needed Rs.33 lakhs more funds.
- ix. NWR- additional funds not required
- x. SR- needed 10-15 lakhs more for CCTV. Advised to send estimate.
- xi. SCR- need more funds.
- xii. SER- have adequate funds. They were considering purchasing CCTV as hiring was working out to be costlier. Position may change.
- xiii. ECR - have adequate funds
- xiv. SECR- have adequate funds.
- xv. SWR - have adequate funds.
- xvi. WCR - have adequate funds.
- xvii. WR- we will manage within the allotted funds.
- xviii. RCF- have adequate funds.
- xix. CLW- will manage within the allotted funds.

Postscript: With just over a fortnight left for the voting, ROs and POs need to focus on following critical areas:

A) Appointment of all polling authorities

B) Training to the polling authorities

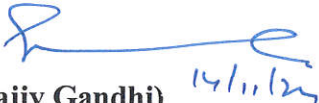
C) Firming up CCTV work

D) Finalising the Voters' List indicating those not to vote in a booth and those added to vote in a booth

E) Voters' list as per D above should be put up on website and Notice Boards giving final Booth number and address, atleast by 30th of November.

F) Identifying PBS beneficiaries and deliver postal ballot to them with brief instruction.

ROs are advised to take review meetings with POs regularly to monitor progress and report to SBEC as per revised format being issued.


(Rajiv Gandhi) 14/11/20
EDE/RRB

& Member Secy. & Convener
Secret Ballot Election Committee-III.

PCPOs/ Returning Officers
All Zonal Railways (Open Line)
Metro Railway, Kolkata
Production Units (CLW & RCF only).

CC: PED/IR/Railway Board for information and necessary action please.