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his election agent and shall operate from the date on which it is lodged with the returning officer. In the event of such a revocation, or of the death of counting agent before the close of the counting, the candidate or his election agent may make a fresh appointment in accordance with this rule.

**51. Functions of polling agents and counting agents:**

- (1) A polling agent may perform such functions in connection with the poll as are authorized by these rules to be performed by a polling agent.
- (2) A counting agent may perform such functions in connection with the counting of votes as are authorized by these rules to be performed by a counting agent.

**52. Attendance of a contesting candidate or his election agent at polling stations and performance by him of the functions of polling agent or counting agent:**

- (1) At every election where a poll is taken each contesting candidate at such election and his election agent shall have a right, to be present at any polling station.
- (2) A contesting candidate or his election agent may himself do any act or thing which any polling agent or the counting agent of such contesting candidate, if appointed would have been authorized by or under these rules to do or may assist any polling agent or the counting agent of such contesting candidate in doing any such act or thing.

**53. Non-attendance of polling or counting agents:** where any act or thing is required or authorized by or under these rules to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agents, the non-attendance of any such agent or agents at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

### CHAPTER- XIII PROCEDURE AT ELECTIONS

**54. Death of candidate before the poll: If a candidate**

- (a) dies at any time after 11 AM on the last date for making nominations and his nomination is found valid on scrutiny under rule 44.
- (b) whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny under rule 44 and who has not withdrawn his candidature under rule 45 dies and in either case, a report of his death is received at any time before the publication of the list of contesting candidates under rule 46, or
- (c) dies as a contesting candidate and a report of his death is received before the Commencement of the poll, returning officer shall upon being the fact of the death of the candidate by order, countermand the poll and report the fact to the Commission and to the Director of Tribal Councils Elections and all proceedings with reference to the election shall be commenced anew in all respects as if for a new election:

Provided that no order for countermanding a poll should be made in a case referred to in clause (a) except after the scrutiny of all the nominations including the nomination of the deceased candidate:

Provided further that no further nomination shall be necessary in the case of a person who was a contesting candidate at the time of the countermanding of the poll:

Provided also that no person who has given a notice of withdrawal of his candidature under sub-rule (1) of rule 45 before the countermanding of the poll shall be ineligible for being nominated as a candidate for the election after such countermanding.