

55. Procedure in contested election: (1) contesting candidate is more than the number of seats to be filled, a poll shall be taken.

(2) if a poll becomes necessary the returning officer shall supply to each candidate or his election agent-

- (a) a copy of the list of contesting candidates; and
- (b) specimen of the symbol allotted to them

56. Eligibility of a woman to hold seats not reserved for them: For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that a woman shall not be disqualified to hold a seat not reserved for women, if she is otherwise qualified to hold such seats under the Regulation and these rules.

57. Publication of hours fixed for polling : The Commission shall fix the hours during which the poll will be taken and the hours so fixed shall be published by notification in the Official Gazette.

Provided that the total period allotted on anyone day for polling at an election in a constituency shall not be less than eight hours.

58. Voting normally to be in person: All electors voting at an election shall do so in person at the polling station, and no vote shall be received by proxy. However, this will not apply to electors on "elections duty".

59. Casting of votes by electors on election duty.

An elector, who by reason of his being on election duty is unable to vote at the polling station where he is entitled to vote, may send an application in Form 25 addressed to the returning officer expressing his wish to vote by post. Such application should reach the returning officer seven days or such shorter period as the returning officer may allow before the date of poll. The returning officer, if he is satisfied that the applicant is an elector on election duty, shall issue a ballot paper to him. Such ballot paper shall be in the same form as an ordinary ballot paper but without any symbol.

Explanation: "Elector on election duty" means any presiding officer, polling officer or other public servant engaged on election duty.

60. Issue of ballot papers to electors on election duty.

(i) A ballot paper shall be delivered to an elector on election duty by the returning officer or such other officer as may be authorized by the Commission together with a copy of Form 26 (Declaration by elector) and form 26 A (Instructions for the guidance of the Elector).

(ii) The returning officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the electoral roll number of the elector as entered in the marked copy of the electoral roll.

(iii) The returning officer shall seal in a separate packet the counterfoils of the ballot papers issued to the electors on election duty and record on the packet a brief description of the contents and the date on which it was sealed.

61. An elector on election duty, who has received a ballot paper and desires to vote, shall record his vote on the ballot paper in accordance with the directions contained in Form 26 A and then enclose it in a cover.

62. After an elector has recorded his vote and made his declaration in Form 26, he shall return the ballot paper and declaration to the returning officer in accordance with the instructions communicated to him in Form 26 A so as to reach the returning officer before the close of poll.]

63. Adjournment of poll in emergencies : (1) if at an election the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by any riot or open violence, or if at an election it is not possible to take the poll at any polling station on account of any natural calamity, or any other sufficient cause, the presiding officer for such polling station shall