



Election immediate

**To
The State Election Officers**

Rc.No. 251/2013/CE.5(1)

Dated: 08.04.2013

Sir,

Sub : Election – Conduct of Election of Members to the Boards and Office Bearers of Co-operative Societies - Counting of Votes – Rejection – Guidelines - Regarding.

Certain State Election Officers and District Election Officers have asked for certain clarification:-

(1) Regarding the rejection of votes in general;

and.

(2) Regarding the validity or rejection of a ballot paper, wherein the voter has given in favour of more candidates than the numbers to be elected in a particular segment that is Women / SC ST/ General, but at the same time has given correctly in other segment / segments i.e., either equal or not more than the number of candidates to be elected.

As far as rejection in general, reference is drawn to Rule52(15), wherein

the grounds for rejection have been stated clearly and the Election Officers have to act accordingly.

As far as the clarification sought under point 2 above the Commission observes as follows:-

- (1) Rule 52 (11)(d) provides that the voter shall be issued **a ballot paper**
- (2) Rule 52 (11)(g) provides that each voter **shall be given only one ballot paper**

It is therefore certain that only one ballot paper is issued and it is issued as a single unit and not in parts or portion or segments or as a split vote

Rule 52 (15)(a) provides the grounds on which a ballot paper shall be rejected and which includes:-

"If votes are given on it in favour of more candidates than the number of members to be elected" (52 (15) (a)(iii))

This rule also does not mention about a vote correctly given in part and not as a whole.

Further an election to the members of the Board is conducted as **one election and** not in parts or segments.

The Commission therefore clarifies that, if votes have been given on a ballot paper in favour of more candidates than the number of members to be elected in a particular segment / segments, even though he would have given correctly i.e., is equal to or less than the number of members to be elected in other segment / segments, the ballot paper cannot be treated as valid and hence shall be rejected.

**(Sd../-)M.R. Mohan
Commissioner**

Copy to:

All Observers,

District Election Officers.