

**Lok Sabha Election 2024**

**Press Note on reply to complaints regarding voter turnout exceeding 100% in few polling booths in 1-Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency**

Returning officer of 1-Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency after conducting enquiry with respect to received complaints which were also published in few Newspapers regarding mismatch of polled votes in four polling booths during the Lok Sabha election in 1-West Tripura Parliamentary Constituency held on 19.4.2024 intimated that there exists no discrepancy and no subversion of the election process was made.

On the basis of the received reports from ARO of all the four concerned polling booths Returning Officer intimated that the referred mismatch is because of the EDC (Election Duty Certificate) votes polled in these polling stations. The location of these polling stations is nearby the ARO headquarter or dispersal centre or strong rooms. In addition, many reserved polling personnel were deployed in nearby areas. Hence, these people have casted their votes in these polling stations through election duty certificate on the election date.

In the ENCORE application, the total electors have been taken as per the Electoral Roll i.e. total electors in the polling station. EDC is not added in the total column in ENCORE. However, EDC vote is added in the total vote casted. Hence, the % of votes casted has exceeded 100% in few polling stations.

With respect to Part No. 44 of 10-Majlishpur Assembly of 1-West Tripura PC, he stated that in the concerned polling Station total assigned voters were 545 and out of such assigned voters 498 casted votes which constitutes 91.37% of assigned voters. Further, 68 voters pertaining to other Assembly segments casted their vote in the said Polling Station with EDCs. As a result total casted votes including EDCs stands as 566 and became 103.85%

10/44- Birendranagar H S School being the nearest polling station from the ARO Headquarter, most of the reserve polling personnel and officials of ARO office on election duty preferred to franchise their voting right from there only. Hence, the high number of EDC Votes were seen.

With respect to Part No. 44 of 5- Khayerpur Assembly of 1-West Tripura PC, Returning Officer stated that in the concerned polling Station total voters were 1290 and 1053 casted votes. Further, 07 voters pertaining to other Assembly segments casted their vote in the said Polling Station with EDCs. As a result total casted votes including EDCs stands as 1060 i.e. 82.17%

With respect to Part No. 25 of 5- Khayerpur Assembly of 1-West Tripura PC, Returning Officer stated that in the concerned polling Station total voters were 840 and 734 casted votes. Further, 05 voters pertaining to other Assembly segments casted their vote in the said Polling Station with EDCs. As a result total casted votes including EDCs stands as 739 i.e. 87.97%

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In regard to Part No. 38 of 2- Mohanpur Assembly of 1-West Tripura PC, Returning Officer stated that the said polling station 2/38 (Fakiramura JB School, South Wing) is situated in proximity of Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, which is a dispersal centre as well as strong room of EVMs for all 3(three) Assembly Segments under Mohanpur Sub- Division. On the day of poll, all reserved polling personnel including staff deployed in the strong room and AROs officials have casted their vote through EDC in this polling station and due to this, percentage has gone to 108.84%. . In the concerned polling Station total voters were 452 and 429 casted votes. Further, 63 voters pertaining to other Assembly segments casted their vote in the said Polling Station with EDCs. As a result total casted votes including EDCs stands as 492 i.e. 108.84 %

Returning Officer added that In ENCORE, the total elector is the original number of elector in the polling station, EDC is not included. However, in the indicated number of casted votes, EDCs have been included.

These polling stations were also scrutinized during the day of scrutiny on 20/04/2024 at 11.00 AM in the conference Hall of DM & Collector West Tripura in presence of the General Observer and representatives of all political parties. It was seen that the high voting percentage was because of the high number of EDC voters in the respective polling stations. However, these number were not included in the total electors list for the polling station in ENCORE. Hence, there has been no vitiation in the process and the elections were held as per due process of law.

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