

**PRESS NOTE FOR CEO'S PRESS BRIEFING ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2019**

**1. Time of Counting:** As per ECI instruction, Counting of votes will commence at **8:00 a.m on 23.05.2019** in all 40 Counting Halls. 3<sup>rd</sup> randomization of Counting staff i.e Counting supervisor, counting assistant & micro-observer will start at **5:00 a.m and the same must be completed by 6:00 a.m** on the day of counting.

**2. List of Counting Centres & Counting Halls:**

**FOR GENERAL LECTION TO 1-MIZORAM PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY:**

Name of District	Counting Centres	Counting Hall	No.& Name of A/C	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Tables	No.of Rounds	Remarks
Mamit	DC Office Complex	DC Conference Hall	1- Hachhek	38+5=43	8	6	
		DC Annexe Building	2- Dampa	36+1=37	8	5	
		LAD Conference Hall	3- Mamit	42+3=45	10	5	
Kolasib	New Multipurpose Hall, Main Building (Top Floor) Govt. Kolasib College	Counting Hall No.1	4- Tuirial	24+1=25	9	3	
		Counting Hall No.2	5- Kolasib	27+1=28	10	3	
		Counting Hall No.3	6- Serlui	31+1=32	11	3	
Aizawl	Legislative Assembly Annexe	Counting Hall No.4	8- Chalfih	29	12	3	Basement-II
		Counting hall No.6	9- Tawi	21	11	2	Basement-I
		Counting Hall No.7	10- Aizawl North-I	23	12	2	Basement-III
		Counting Hall No.8	11- Aizawl North-II	22	12	2	Basement-III
		Counting Hall No.9	12- Aizawl North-III	19	11	2	Basement-III
		Counting Hall No.2	13- Aizawl East-I	27	14	2	Basement-I
		Counting Hall No.3	16-Aizawl West-II	21	11	2	Basement-II
		Counting Hall No.5	18-Aizawl South-I	20	14	2	Basement-II
		Counting Hall No.1	20-Aizawl South-III	28	14	2	Basement-I

Name of District	Counting Centres	Counting Hall	No.& Name of A/C	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Tables	No.of Rounds	Remarks
Aizawl	R.Dengthuama Indoor Stadium Basement	Counting Hall No.10	7- Tuivawl	28	14	2	
		Counting Hall No.11	14-Aizawl East-II	19	12	2	
		Counting Hall No.12	17-Aizawl West-III	23	12	2	
		Counting Hall No.13	19-Aizawl South-II	25	14	2	
	Govt. Aizawl College	Counting Hall No.14 (Conference Hall)	15-Aizawl West-I	26	7	4	
Champhai	DC Office Complex, Champhai DPRC Building, Champhai	Counting Hall No.1, General Room, DC Office	21-Lengteng	27	5	6	
		Counting Hall No.2, Election Room-II, DC Office	22-Tuichang	26	5	6	
		Counting Hall No.3, DC Conference Hall	23-Champhai North	30	6	5	
		Counting Hall No.4, General Room, DC Office	24-Champhai South	25	4	7	
		Counting Hall No.5, DEOC Building, DC Complex	25-East Tuipui	29	5	6	
Serchhip	DC Office Complex	Counting Hall No.1, DC Conference Hall	26-Serchhip	23	6	4	
		Counting Hall No.2, First Floor, DC office Building	27-Tuikum	29	8	4	
		Counting Hall No. 3, DC Conference Hall	28-Hrangturzo	25	7	4	

Name of District	Counting Centres	Counting Hall	No.& Name of A/C	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Tables	No. of Rounds	Remarks
Lunglei	Saikuti Hall Building	Counting Hall No.1	29-South Tuipui	25	9	3	
		Counting Hall No.2	30-Lunglei North	27	9	3	
		Counting Hall No.3	31-Lunglei East	20	7	3	
		Counting Hall No.4	32-Lunglei West	21	7	3	
		Counting Hall No.5	33-Lunglei South	37+1=38	10	4	
		Counting Hall No.6	34-Thorang	33+1=34	9	4	
		Counting Hall No.7	35-West Tuipui	25+1=26	9	3	
Lawngtlai	Govt. Lawngtlai College	Counting Hall No.1, College Hall	36-Tuichawng	62	10	7	
		Counting Hall No.2, Professor Common Room	37-Lawngtlai 'W'	68	10	7	
		Counting Hall No.3, Lecture Hall No.2.	38-Lawngtlai 'E'	35	6	6	
Saiha	DC Office Complex, Siaha	Counting Hall No.1, Planning Branch Room	39- Saiha	36	10	4	
		Counting Hall No.2, General Establishment Room	40- Palak	43	12	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>C/Centre =10</b>	<b>Counting Hall = 40</b>		<b>1175+15=1190</b>	<b>380</b>		

**FOR BYE-ELECTION TO 15-AIZAWL WEST-I A/C**

Name of A/C	Counting Centres	Counting Hall	No.& Name of A/C	No. of Polling Stations	No. of Tables	No. of Rounds	Remarks
15-Aizawl West-I A/C	Govt. Aizawl College	Counting Hall No.14 (Conference Hall)	15-Aizawl West-I	26	7	4	

### 3. List of Counting Officials:

- 1) Each EVM Counting Table will be manned by 1 Counting Supervisor, 1 Counting Assistant & 1 Micro-observer. There are 387 EVM Counting Tables in 40 Counting Halls. Total No. of officials in EVM Counting Tables will be -  $3 \times 387 = 1161$  nos.
- 2) ETPBS will be pre-scanned at Pre-Counting Hall at Assembly Annexe Conference Hall where there will be 40 Tables. In each Table, 1 Counting Supervisor and 1 Counting Assistant will be deployed. Total no. of Counting Officials in Pre-Counting Hall =  $2 \times 40 = 80$
- 3) Besides, 2 additional Micro-Observers are deployed to assist Observer in each of 40 Counting Hall. Hence,  $2 \times 40 = 80$
- 3) Hence, total no. of counting officials involved in Counting of votes in 40 Counting Hall =  $1161 + 80 + 80 = 1321$ .

*(Note: The above list of counting official does not include Data Management Staff and IVth Grade staff who are deployed to carry and bring EVM from Strong Room.)*

### 4. Three layered Security arrangement:

- a) For the smooth flow of EVMs between the respective strong rooms where polled EVMs are kept and the counting halls, all arrangements have been made. A proper barricading of the path used for this purpose also has been done so that the transportation from strong room to counting hall of an AC is not interrupted by presence of non-officials and media persons. Necessary action has been taken so that there is no trespassing through the barricade by any unauthorized person and there is no crisscross movement along the paths of two different ACs.
- b) Three tier cordoning system will be set up in all Counting centres to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons inside the Counting centre. 100 meter periphery around a counting premise/campus has been demarcated as pedestrian zone. No vehicle is allowed within this perimeter. Proper barricading of this demarcated zone and the alighting point (same as the pedestrian entry point) will be made out by providing an entry gate into the premise. This is 1st cordon of the security ring. Here Mizoram Police will be stationed to check the identity of the persons seeking entry in. No person without duly issued Authority letter of ECI or photo I-card issued by the concerned DEO, duly displayed on his person shall be allowed to cross the 1st cordon. A senior Magistrate shall be posted at the entrance to control crowd and regulate entry. I would request anyone who wishes to come to Counting Centre to abide by the security arrangement made by the election officials.

- c) The 2nd tier and the middle cordon will be at the gate of the counting premise. This will be manned by Mizoram Armed Police (MAP). Before allowing the entry of persons into the 2nd cordon, proper frisking should be made by the security personnel to ensure that no prohibited items like matchbox, arms etc. are carried inside. The frisking shall be done by State police force personnel only. Women shall be frisked only by women police personnel/women HGs. They should also tell that mobiles/I-pad, lap top and similar electronic devices etc which can record audio/video are not allowed inside the counting hall and they will need to keep it in Media or Public Communication Room. The forces deployed at 2nd cordon will also ensure that that no one is loitering outside the counting halls and using mobile phones or other communication equipment. (Mobile etc can only be used from designated rooms as aforesaid at the counting centers).
- d) The 3<sup>rd</sup> and the inner cordon shall be at the door of the Counting Hall. These will be manned by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF – 4 coys). (Aizawl – 5 platoon, Kolasib, Mamit, Champhai, Lunglei, Serchhip, Lawngtlai & Siaha – 1 Platoon each; Total – 4 coys). There will be frisking arrangement at this stage too so as to ensure that no mobile phones and other prohibited items are carried inside the counting hall.

**5. Postal Ballot and ETPBS:** As on **20.05.2019**,

For General Election to 1-Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency, **3119 ETPBS** has been received out of total ETPBS **4687** uploaded to the system and **352 Polled Postal Ballot** has been received out of **429 Postal Ballot** issued.

For Bye Election to 15-Aizawl West-I Assembly Constituency, **39 ETPBS** has been received out of total **125** uploaded to the system and **218 Polled Postal Ballot** has been received out of total **382 Postal Ballot** issued.

Pre-scanning of ETPBS for 1-Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency will be taken up at Pre-counting Hall at Assembly Conference for which 4 AROs have been appointed. After pre-scanning is over, actual counting of Postal Ballot will be done at Counting Hall No. 5, Legislative Assembly Annexe.

Counting of ETPBS and Postal Ballot for Bye-Election to 15-Aizawl West-I will be taken up separately in Counting Hall No.14, Govt. Aizawl College.

**6. VOTER TURN OUT REPORT AS ON (20.05.2019):**

**For General Election to 1-Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency:**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Electors	383603	404169	7,87,777
EVM votes polled	244673	252582	497255
<b>EVM voting percentage (%)</b>	<b>63.78</b>	<b>62.49</b>	<b>63.12</b>
Service Voters	4634	53	4687
ETPBS votes received (20.05.2019)			3119
<b>Service voting percentage (%)</b>			<b>66.55</b>
Postal Ballot received (20.05.2019)			352
Total electors including service voters			792464
Total votes (EVM+ Postal Ballot+ ETPBS)			500374
<b>Total Voting Percentage</b>			<b>63.14</b>

**For Bye-Election to 15-Aizawl West-I Assembly Constituency:**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Electors	12,143	13,645	25,788
EVM votes polled	8,414	9,740	18,154
EVM voting percentage (%)	<b>69.29</b>	<b>71.38</b>	<b>70.4</b>
Service Voters	120	5	125
ETPBS votes received (20.05.2019)			39
Service voting percentage (%)			<b>31.2</b>
Postal Ballot received (20.05.2019)			218
Total electors including service voters	12,263	13,650	25,913
Total votes (EVM+ Postal Ballot+ ETPBS)			18411
<b>Total Voting Percentage</b>			<b>71</b>

**7. EVM/VVPAT:**

- a) For conduct General Election to 1-Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency and Bye-Election to 15-Aizawl West-I A/C, latest model of EVMs (M3) is used. Balloting Unit (BU)-**1677**, Control Unit (CU) – **1663** & VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trials) -**1652** are available in our State for conduct of the said election.
- b) There are 1190 Polling Stations in the whole State where –
- 1) **1190 EVM (BU-1190, CU-1190, VVPAT-1190)** are used on poll day.
  - 2) **(BU-487, CU-473 & VVPAT – 462)** are kept as Reserve on Poll Day.
  - 3) **(BU - 3, CU – 10 & VVPAT – 3)** are replaced during dispersal of Polling Parties
  - 4) **(BU – 14, CU – 14 & VVPAT – 26)** are replaced during Mock Poll
  - 5) **(BU – 13, CU – 14 & VVPAT – 37)** are replaced during Actual Poll
  - 6) **In Total, (BU - 30, CU - 38 & VVPAT- 66) are replaced during this Election.**
  - 7) Replacement percentage during this Election is **(BU – 1.79 %, CU – 2.29 % & VVPAT – 4.00 %)**.
- c) In this General Election to 1-Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency and Bye-Election to 15-Aizawl West-I A/C, it is mandatory to count VVPAT slips of **randomly selected 5 (five) Polling Stations in each Assembly Constituency** as per latest ECI instruction in compliance of Apex Court's Order. Polling Station from where VVPAT is to be counted will be selected by draw of lots in presence of Candidates/ Election agents /Counting agents. In case there is discrepancy between votes polled in CU and VVPAT, result shown by VVPAT will stand.

- 8. Round-wise data:** As instructed under para 8.4 of ECI instruction dated 30.04.2018, on the day of counting i.e 23.05.2019, Returning Officer will make announcement and will cause the entries of votes polled by each candidate after **each round** on a display board so that each counting agent can see and note down/cross check the entries.



**9. Separate Micro-Observers and Observer:** There are 16 Observers and 467 micro-observers in all 40 Counting Halls

**10. Micro-Observer for each table:** Each counting table shall have one micro-observer. The Observer has given training to all these micro-observers. The micro-observer shall be responsible for the purity of counting process on his/ her respective table. The micro-observer are drawn from Central Govt./ Central Govt. PSU employee as per ECI instructions. They will note down the details of votes exhibited by the EVMs being counted in each round in that Table. The micro-observers would be provided with a pre-printed statement on which there will be space for noting down the CU No., Round No., Table No., Polling Station Number and thereafter the names of all the contesting candidates as they appear in the ballot paper. They will put their signature at the end of the statement and shall hand over the statement to the Observer after completion of each round.

Further, two additional Micro-Observers will be deployed in each Counting Hall of every Assembly Constituency who should be entrusted with the following responsibilities:-

-One of these two Micro Observers shall keep a watch over the data entry in the computer placed in the Counting Hall for round-wise compilation of the votes recorded for each candidate. He should ensure that the entries in the Part II of the Form 17C are correctly entered in this computer by the data entry operator.

-The second Micro-Observer shall assist the Observer and re-check on the printout (of the data entry done in step 1 above) that all data which has been entered is fully correct and complete and in accordance with the statement handed over by the micro-observers after each round of counting received from each counting table.

**11. Videography:** No camera-still or video of the media (except the official video camera for the officially reporting the entire counting process) is allowed to be fixed inside any counting hall. No camera stand should, therefore, be allowed to be taken inside Counting Hall by media and journalist. Handheld cameras can be allowed to press corp carrying media pass issued by the ECI. Further while taking audio visual coverage of the counting process with camera carried in hand or on shoulder by the media/press, under no circumstances, the actual votes recorded on an individual EVM or Ballot papers is to be photographed or covered by audio visual coverage. The exact location up to which the still and video cameras of the media and press can move shall be indicated by the RO/ARO in advance and marked by a line or a string for guidance of all concerned. ***I would like to request all media persons to comply with ECI instructions on Counting Day.***

**12. Media Centre:** At each Counting center, there shall be a communication room for the officials with table/chairs, a telephone with STD, a fax, computer with printer and Internet facility attached to it. A hotline, wherever possible, should be provided with CEO. A senior officer should be deployed in this communication room. Media center will be set up at each counting place. a separate room of adequate size has been earmarked for this and all reasonable facilities like telephone, fax, data communication network etc will be installed in this Media Centre. DIPRO has been designated as in charge of the Media Centre in all Counting Centres. Each RO shall also deploy one of his officers plus other officials to the Media Centre who shall assist in dissemination of counting related information/latest trends etc among the media personnel. The officials on duty at media centre shall escort the media groups in small manageable numbers to visit counting halls at regular intervals. Such visits will be of short duration only. In the media room, arrangements to keep the mobile phones safely will be made as mobile phones shall not be allowed to be taken inside the counting halls. Use of mobile phones and other communication equipment by media persons shall be allowed from the media center. Proper arrangement of loudspeaker will also be made for dissemination of counting trends and results to public and for media.

**13. New Instruction in this General Election to Lok Sabha, 2019:**

- i) The instruction that the penultimate round of EVM counting should be taken up only after completion of Postal Ballot counting is withdrawn *vide ECI Letter No. 470/2019/SDR Dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.* Accordingly, the EVM counting can go irrespective of the stage of Postal ballot counting. Once the EVM counting is completed, the VVPAT slips counting can start as per the prescribed procedure for counting VVPAT slips.
- ii) The Commission instruction for mandatory re-counting of all postal ballot papers on the ground that the margin of victory is less than the number of postal ballots has been revised to the effect that where the margin of victory is less than the number of Postal ballot papers rejected as invalid at the time of counting, all the rejected Postal Ballot papers shall be mandatorily re-verified by the Returning Officers before declaration of result.
- iii) Only in respect of the Counting place where the PBs are counted, the commencement of counting of votes polled in EVM can start 30 minutes after the start of PB counting. The commencement of counting of votes polled in EVM in respect of other assembly segments of the PC need not wait if they are held in different counting place.

**14. Suvidha:** All round wise EVM votes will be entered into New Suvidha App by AROs and Postal Ballot votes by RO from counting halls. The votes entered in Suvidha will be displayed on real time basis in ECI's website, Voters Helpline App (mobile app which is available for download in playstore) and digital display board (to be set up at CEO media centre). Declaration of results will be done by RO after all data entry had been finalized in Suvidha.