

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Electronic Voting Machine

What is an Electronic Voting machine? In what way its functioning is different from the conventional system of voting?

An Electronic Voting Machine consists of two Units – a Control Unit and a Balloting Unit – joined by a five-meter cable. The Control Unit is placed with the Presiding Officer or a Polling Officer and the Balloting Unit is placed inside the voting compartment. Instead of issuing a ballot paper, the Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit will release a ballot by pressing the Ballot Button on the Control Unit. This will enable the voter to cast his vote by pressing the blue button on the Balloting Unit against the candidate and symbol of his choice.

When was the EVM first introduced in elections?

EVMs were first used in 70-Parur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982.

How can EVMs be used in areas where there is no electricity?

EVMs do not require electricity. EVMs run on an ordinary battery .

What is the maximum number of votes which can be cast in EVMs?

An EVM can record a maximum of 2,000 votes.

What is the maximum number of candidates which EVMs can cater to?

In case of M2 EVMs (2006-10), EVMs can cater to a maximum of 64 candidates including NOTA. There is provision for 16 candidates in a Balloting Unit. If the total number of candidates exceeds 16, more balloting units can be attached (one per 16 candidates) up to a maximum of 64 candidates by connecting 4 Balloting Units. However, in case of M3 EVMs (Post 2013), EVMs can cater to a maximum of 384 candidates including NOTA by connecting 24 Balloting Units.

Who has designed the EVMs?

The EVMs have been devised and designed by the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) of the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. The EVMs are now manufactured by the above two undertakings.

What will happen if the number of contesting candidates in a constituency goes beyond 384?

In case the number of contesting candidates goes beyond 384 in any constituency, the conventional method of voting by means of ballot box and ballot paper will have to be adopted.

What will happen if the EVM in a particular polling station goes out of order?

If an EVM of a particular polling station goes out of order, then the same is replaced with a new one. The votes recorded until the stage when the EVM went out of order remains safe in the memory of the Control Unit and it is perfectly fine to proceed with the polling after replacing the EVM with new EVM and there is no need to start the poll from the beginning. On counting day, votes recorded in both Control Units are counted to give the aggregate result of that polling station.

Approved Identification Documents

- Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) • Passport • Driving License • PAN Card • Pension Card • Pension Book • Freedom Fighter Identity Card
- Service Identity Cards • Passbook • Certificate of Physical Handicapped • SC/ST/OBC certificate • Arms Licenses
- Health Insurance Scheme Smart Card • Job Cards • Property Documents with Photographs

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