

## **PRESS NOTE**

Chandigarh April 09, 2005 : Shri Chander Singh, State Election Commissioner, Haryana has announced that as per information available upto 1800 hrs., the votes for the offices of 33456 Panches and 3442 Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats, 1577 Members Panchayat Samitis and 220 Zila Parishads in the 66 blocks of 19 districts for the second phase and in addition 632 Panches, 10 Sarpanches and 32 Members Panchayat Samitis, where the seats remained vacant due to non filing of nomination and other reasons and also repoll for 52 Polling Stations, where the poll was disrupted during the first phase, were polled today i.e. 09.04.2005. For these elections 9780 Polling Stations were set up and total 38868 Polling Personnels were appointed to conduct these elections. The polling was peaceful by and large except a few stray incidents.

In the second phase of election, the State Election Commission, Haryana cancelled the elections of Panch Ward No.9 & 10 of Gram Panchayat Thana Kalan and Ward No.10 of Gram Panchayat Sehjadpur of District Sonapat, for the office of Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Malab in District Gurgaon, Panch Ward No.3 of Gram Panchayat Kakrali, District Panchkula and Panch Ward No.10, Gram Panchayat Didwada due to wrong acceptance of nomination papers and the revised election programme has already been issued by the Commission according to which poll for these offices will be held on 15.04.2005. Similarly, the State Election Commission cancelled the election of Sarpanch and Panch Ward No.17 of Gram Panchayat Nangal Kalan, election of Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Palri Kalan Block Rai, District Sonapat due to wrong allotment of symbols. The revised programme for these offices will be issued separately. Commission has preliminary reports to suggest that polling could not

take place in 20 booths of Deeghal & 4 booths of Marot in Jhajjar district due to disruption of poll process by miscreants. Polling also could not be held in 5 booths of Subana, District Jhajjar due to wrong allotment of symbol to the election of Sarpanch. Poll was vitiated in Dhani Bhartu District Bhiwani due to some local dispute.

The State Election Commission, Haryana has appointed Commissioner rank officers as Election Observers and the Observers (Expenditure). All the observers appointed by the State Election Commission were to see that election in all the wards are conducted in a free and fair manner without any favour and fear. The Observer (Expenditure) have also reached to their respective destinations to observe that no candidate cross the expenditure limits prescribed by the State election Commission in this regard.

Moreover to maintain law & order position about 20,000 Police Personnels were also appointed. To keep a overall check on the polling process 1147 Returning Officers (Panchayat) were appointed. The polling started at 8.00 A.M. and concluded at 4.00 P.M. The overall percentage of votes polled in the State was 80 to 85%.

The counting of votes for the offices of Panches & Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats has started at the Polling Stations immediately after the close of poll and counting of votes for Members Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad will be held on 12.04.2005.