

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Election Department – General Election to Kerala Legislative Assembly 2021 – Guidelines for the waste management in the Polling Booth – Orders issued.

ELECTION (EQUIPMENT) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt) No. 183/2021 /Elec. Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 19.03.2021

Read: (1) G.O(Rt) No. 85/2021/Elec. Dated 11.02.2021.
(2) Circular No. 62/DC1/2021/LSGD dated 12.03.2021.

ORDER

As per the Government Order read as 1st paper above, Government have issued detailed guidelines to ensure holding of safe Kerala Legislative Assembly Elections 2021 in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In the said guidelines, it was inter-alia stated that the collection and disposal of bio-medical waste generated in the polling stations should be done through Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) across the state, managed by IMAGE. The material collected from the polling stations shall be handed over to the nearest collection facility from where the materials will be taken by IMAGE for disposal as per the Bio-Medical Waste Management Protocols.

In order to collect and dispose all types of waste, both bio-medical and others, Local Self Government Department as per circular read as 2nd paper above have issued detailed instructions. As per the said instructions, Secretaries of the local bodies are entrusted with the arrangements for disposing all types of waste generated in the polling stations.

Accordingly, following guidelines are issued to streamline the waste collection process from the polling stations during Kerala Legislative Assembly Election 2021.

1. Secretaries of the respective local body shall engage members of Harithakarmasena in each polling station for collection and disposal of all types of waste generated in the polling stations.

2. He should arrange vehicles in the polling stations for carrying the waste generated. The vehicles carrying bio-medical waste shall be equipped with G.P.S tracking facility using Ele Traces software which will be installed with the help of the Nodal Officer appointed by the DEO for this purpose.

3. Secretary shall make arrangements to provide gloves, mask, sanitizer, face shield etc. to the members of Harithakarmasena.

4. Three Covers/Plastic bucket shall be ensured in each Polling Station for collecting Bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Bio degradable waste

5. All the staff engaged for polling duty shall use only steel or ceramic utensils for taking their food.

6. If food packets are supplied in the polling stations it should be made available in Plantain leaf/Aluminium foil. In case of aluminium foils, the officer using it shall clean the foil and put it in the separate bin provided for the same.

Non-Biodegradable waste

7. Non-Biodegradable waste such as plastic gloves used by voters shall be kept in separate bins provided for the same.

Bio-Medical Waste

8. District Medical Officer will provide yellow covers with bio-hazard sign in each Polling Station.

9. Biomedical waste which include masks worn by polling officers, police personnel, polling agents during the last hour of polling when Covid patients come in the polling stations and PPE kit worn by polling staff should be removed after the completion of polling and should be put in the yellow cover provided for the purpose. Members of Harithakarmasena in the polling station should tie the bag securely using the ties provided. They should transport these bags to the nearest health facility identified for the purpose on the same day itself in the vehicle provided.

10. District Medical Officer concerned should make temporary arrangements in the health care facility till the waste is collected by IMAGE.

11. Both biodegradable waste and non-biodegradable waste shall be transported to the nearest collection centres of the local body by the Harithakarmasena for disposal.

12. In order to ensure the disposal of waste generated in each polling station and co-ordinate the activities of the members of the Harithakarmasena, Secretary of the respective local body shall entrust a dedicated officer for the purpose.

13. Deputy Director of Panchayat and Regional Joint Director in co-ordination with District Medical Officer, shall work out the logistics of mapping polling booths to the nearest IMAGE collection centres and share it with the Secretaries of the local bodies.

14. District Medical Officer should ensure that training has been given to the members of the Harithakarmasena in handling of waste related to Covid preventive gear that will be used in Polling stations. This can be done through corresponding booth level Nodal officers of Health Department under the supervision of Medical Officer of the Health care insitutions.

15. Secretaries of the concerned local body shall inform Presiding Officers, the name and mobile number of the officer entrusted in the polling station and the members of the Harithakarmasena.

16. Executive Vice Chair person, Harithakerala Mission, Director Panchayat, Director Urban Affairs and Director of Health Services shall take immediate action and ensure that all arrangements are made to implement the direction in this guidelines.

17. The District Election Officer shall appoint Nodal officers for each LAC to ensure effective co-ordination in the whole process. The Returning Officer of the LAC shall be responsible to make sure that polling booths are cleaned up the polls as per the procedures laid down in this guidelines.

By Order of the Governor,
Teeka Ram Meena
Chief Electoral Officer

To

All Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries,
Special Secretaries.

State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram.

Executive Vice Chairperson, Harithakeralam Mission,
Director, Panchayat.

Director, Urban Affairs.

Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Advocate General, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

All District Election Officers and Head of the Departments.

All District Medical Officers.


All Secretaries, Grama Panchayats.

All Secretaries, Municipalities/Municipal Corporations

Executive Director, Suchitwamission,

Managing Director, Clean Kerala Company Ltd.
Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission.
Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Principal Accountant General (Audit/A&E) Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.
Principal Accountant General (G&SSA/E&RSA), Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram
Secretaries of Chief Minister/Ministers/Opposition Leader/
Speaker/Deputy Speaker.
Special Secretary to Chief Secretary.
Web & News Media, I&PRD (for press release).
Stock file/Office copy

Forwarded/ By Order,



Section Officer.

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