

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI – 110 001

No. 100/PB-LA/1/2013

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

To,

Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar,  
CWC Member,  
Punjab.

Sub: News item published in 'The Hindu' about your allegations on tamperability of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

Sir,

A news item has been published in 'The Hindu' on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013 in which it has been said that you have made allegations about possible tamperability of EVMs. The news item also states that you have claimed that you have information that Akali Dal, through hackers had broken into the EVM software and breached the source code. The news item states that you have demanded the use of EVMs equipped with VVPAT system for Moga elections. A copy of the news item published in 'The Hindu' is enclosed for your ready reference. In this context, I have been directed to state that EVMs used by Election Commission are completely tamper-proof. The news item states that you have told reporters that you had written to the Commission as well as Union Law Minister highlighting that on January 17 last year the Delhi High Court had ruled that the EVMs were not tamper-proof. The Commission has not received any letter from you. Further it should be noted that Delhi High Court has in its said Judgement of 17.01.2012 dismissed the petition of Dr. Subramanian Swamy and has held that there is no evidence that EVMs have been tampered with. The Commission has issued detailed instructions regarding security and storage of EVMs. The Commission has also issued detailed instructions for complete transparency in First Level Check (FLC), candidate set, mock poll, etc. A copy of the relevant instructions is enclosed with this letter for your ready reference. It can be seen from these Instructions that everything is done in the presence of all stakeholders including representatives of recognized political parties. During FLC, machines are opened and checked by manufacturers and are also shown to

representatives of political parties. A mock poll with one thousand votes is carried out in at least 5 % of EVMs randomly picked up by representatives of political parties. A sequential print out of the result is then taken out and shown to representatives of political parties. After the FLC is over, a pink paper seal with a unique number and which is printed by Security Printing Press, Nasik is affixed on the control unit. It is noteworthy that Security Printing Press, Nasik also prints currency notes for our country. Signatures of representatives of political parties present at FLC are also obtained on the pink paper seals. This process is repeated for ballot units at the time of candidate set after the ballot paper is finalized. In addition to the pink paper seals put on CUs and BUs several other seals including thread seals and a green paper seal are also affixed on the EVMs. A mock poll with at least 50 votes is carried out on the poll day in the presence of polling agents before the start of poll. Polled EVMs are guarded by Armed Central Police Force. Representatives of candidates are allowed to accompany polled EVMs and are also allowed to keep a watch on the EVM Strong Rooms. EVM Strong Rooms are guarded 24X7 by Armed Central Police Force. They are also kept under watch by CCTV coverage. A double lock is put on the EVM Strong Rooms. Under the circumstances it is not possible for any unauthorized person to access EVMs.

District Election Officer Moga has reported that FLC of EVMs for Moga elections was done from 22.01.2013 to 25.01.2013 in Bhupinder Khalsa Sr. Secondary School in the presence of representatives of political parties. Shri Gurbir Singh, representative of Indian National Congress was present during the process of FLC. Mock poll during FLC was done on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 in the presence of representatives of political parties. Representative of the Congress Smt. Jagdarshan Kaur was present at that time. EVMs were handed over to the RO of the Moga assembly constituency on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 in the presence of representatives of political parties. Representative of Congress, Shri Amarjit Singh was present at that time. Signatures of all representatives of all political parties including the representative of INC were obtained on registers during this process. The entire process has been videographed. The District Election Officer has

reported that representatives of all political parties were satisfied with the process. Nobody raised any objection at that time.

Under the circumstances it is improper to make such baseless allegations. EVMs used by Election Commission of India are completely tamper-proof. It is not possible to hack into them. However, if you have any evidence of alleged hacking as claimed by you, please share it with Election Commission of India so that appropriate action can be taken.

You are further requested to ensure that representatives of your party actively participate in the future processes including randomization of EVMs, candidate set and mock poll at polling stations.

Yours faithfully,



(Shangara Ram)  
Pr. Secretary