

## VOTE COUNTING WITHOUT HIDDEN MOTIVES

**THE PRACTICE OF IDENTIFYING THE VOTING PATTERN AT EACH POLLING STATION MUST BE STOPPED.**

**VOTE COUNTING SHOULD BE DONE AT ONE STATION IN EACH CONSTITUENCY AND NOT AT EACH POLLING STATION**

**THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED**

IN the beginning vote counting used to be done at one centre in each constituency. At the close of voting, all ballot boxes would be sealed and taken to this centre under police escort. There the boxes would be opened under the eyes of the candidates' agents and the ballot papers from the various polling stations mixed up before counting. Thus the voting pattern at each polling station could not be determined.

To facilitate gerrymandering, it is essential to identify the voting pattern at each polling station. So, the EC started the practice of counting votes at each polling station, telling the public that this was to get the results faster, besides ensuring the ballot boxes were not hijacked on their journey back to the single vote-counting station in the constituency. What the public was told as not true. The public was being fooled. Fair elections is what we want, not quick announcement of election results.

With the detailed information on the voting pattern at each polling station now available, gerrymandering became easy. Electoral boundaries were re-drawn, even in awkward ways, so long as the voting results ensuing would benefit the ruling party. This amounts to cheating.

**Electoral boundaries should be based on population in each constituency, not on the political leanings of the voters in any given area.**

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