

Micro Observers (MOs)

Micro-Observers (MO)

Observers have a very crucial role to play in the conduct of an independent, free and fair election. To strengthen the system of observation, the Commission has consciously decided to deploy Micro-Observers where necessary. These micro-observers would directly work under control and supervision of the general observer.



Who Could be a Micro-Observer?

Following category of persons can be appointed as MOs:

- ▶ Government of India employees not below Group-C (Retd Also).
- ▶ Employees of Central /State /Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) not below group-C (Retd Also).
- ▶ Volunteers from the members/Programme Officers/Coordinators of NSS/Bharat Scouts & Guides.

Preparing database of MOs

- ▶ District Election Officer (DEO) will prepare a database of all Government of India & Central PSU employees in the district.
- ▶ Database shall contain name, designation, organization, elector details of the employee including the Assembly, part and serial number in part of the employee of the electoral roll, & also the EPIC number of the employee.
- ▶ Additionally, postal address, telephone number, mobile number and email ID of the MOs should also be included in the database.



Sharing MOs database with other districts

In case some districts do not have adequate number of Govt. of India or Central PSU employees to be appointed as MOs:

- ▶ DEO shall get the database of Govt. of India or Central PSU employees posted in neighbouring districts, with the help of Divisional Commissioner in those states that have a divisional commissioner system and with the help of CEO on other states.

In case an MO has to go to another district on poll duty:

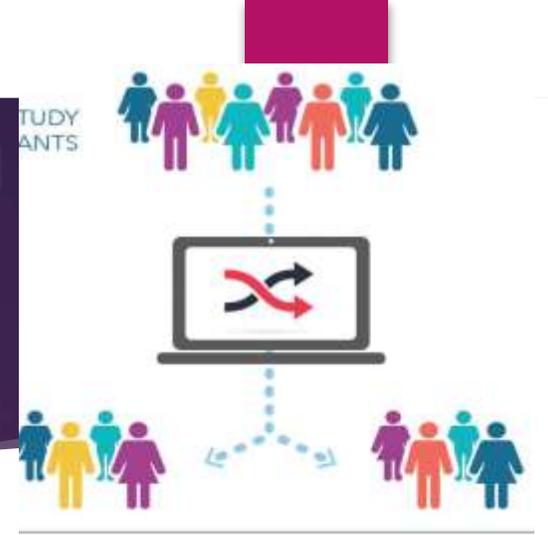
- ▶ Proper stay & travel arrangement must be made by the DEO.
- ▶ The Mos will also be provided with Form 12 (voting through postal ballot) as per guidelines of ECI

MOs can be used more than one Poll Day

In case of multi-phase elections and shortage of MOs:

- ▶ MOs can be used for poll duty in more than one phase as well;
- ▶ Convenience, safety & logistics of movement must also be taken into account.

Randomization of MOs



- ▶ List of Polling Stations where MOs are to be appointed shall be prepared by the DEO in consultation with the Observer, depending on the sensitivity analysis and availability of MOs.
- ▶ Available MOs to be randomized in the presence of Observer
- ▶ MOs shall not be posted on duty in a Polling Station within the same Assembly Constituency, where they are enrolled as voters.
- ▶ They shall be informed about the exact duty PS only on the day of departure.

Training of MOs

- ▶ Detailed training on the rules & procedure of the entire polling process to be provided
- ▶ Additionally, they must also be trained on observation work & the method of filling the report
- ▶ At least two round of trainings for MOs , to be done.



Logistics for MOs

- ▶ DEO is responsible for providing logistics to the MOs
- ▶ MOs will reach the dispatch centers on their own
- ▶ From the dispatch centers they will be sent with the polling team to the Polling Station
- ▶ They will return to the receipt center with the polling teams
- ▶ Each MO shall be given a photo identity card by the DEO to ensure his access to the Polling Stations

MOs in multi-polling station locations

In case the location on which an MO is put on duty has more than one polling stations:

- ▶ The MO shall be responsible for all the polling stations at that location
- ▶ No need to post separate MOs in Polling Stations at one location
- ▶ MO shall divide her/his time between Polling Stations & will visit all the Polling Stations within the same campus at frequent intervals
- ▶ S/he shall make it known to the polling agents at each Polling Station that s/he is available in case they want to bring anything to her/his notice.

Supervising MOs

- ▶ General Observers will supervise the work of MOs & shall be in close touch with them
- ▶ MO shall report to the Observer alone & not to other election officials

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY OF MO

- ▶ Assess the preparedness at the Polling Station
- ▶ Watch the mock poll & see that it is carried out as per the instructions of the Commission
- ▶ Ensure that votes in the CU are cleared after the mock poll & before the start of actual poll and mock poll certificate is signed by the Presiding Officer, Polling Officers, Polling agents and sign of himself.
- ▶ During Poll Day, She/he should regularly note down important points for his report in the prescribed given format.
- ▶ In no case the MO will act as Presiding Officer or the Polling Officer. Her/his task is to observe that election process is being carried out in a free & fair manner & there is no violation of poll Procedures.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY OF MO

- ▶ Mock Poll procedure
- ▶ Presence of Polling Agents and Observance of ECI instructions.
- ▶ Entry pass system and access to polling stations.
- ▶ Proper identification of electors in accordance with ECI Guidelines.
- ▶ Identification and recording procedures for Absentee, Shifted and Dead voter list (ASD List)
- ▶ Application of indelible ink.
- ▶ Procedure of noting down particulars of electors in register 17-A.
- ▶ Secrecy of voting

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY OF MO

- ▶ Conduct of polling agents, their complaints if any
- ▶ In case of violation found in observation - Immediate report to general observer through available means of communication
- ▶ Preparation of Report in prescribed format by MO
- ▶ MO to report to the General Observer at the collection centers and handover his envelope containing the report for the day personally to General Observer
- ▶ Reports of Micro-Observer along with scrutiny of Register 17A may be taken with consideration for taking a decision of re-poll
- ▶ MOs should know and be aware of the roles & responsibilities of the Presiding Officer

Role OF MO IN HOME VOTING

- ▶ If MOs are deployed for Home Voting (AVPD/AVSC) then he/she has to specifically observe the following things :-
 - (a) Secrecy of voting should not be violated in any cost
 - (b) Proper videography of whole procedure
 - (c) Home Voting should be done in the home of the voter and not in any other place
 - (d) Proper identification of Companion as per guidelines is being done or not
 - (e) Proper Attestation of FORM 13 A
 - (f) Proper sealing of the vote box after the poll

Report to be submitted by MO

- ▶ Report as per Annex – I of the letter no. 464/INST/2023-EPS(Micro Observer) dated 14.06.2023 of ECI
- ▶ Signature in the Mock Poll certificate

ROLE OF MOs DURING COUNTING

Role of Micro Observer

- Since every step in counting is crucial, the role of MO becomes very important as **to ensure that** the counting **supervisor & counting agent perform** their duty correctly.
- MO would be provided with a **pre-printed** statement on which they would note down the **CU No., Round No., Table No., Polling Station Number** and thereafter the names of all the contesting candidates as they appear in the ballot paper.
- MO shall be filling the vote details of every round of his table on the **proforma** provided for the purpose.
- They will put their signature at the end of the statement and shall **hand over the statement to the Observer after each round.**

ROLE OF MOs DURING COUNTING

Two Additional Micro Observers

- Two additional MOs shall be deployed in each Counting Hall of every Assembly Segment.

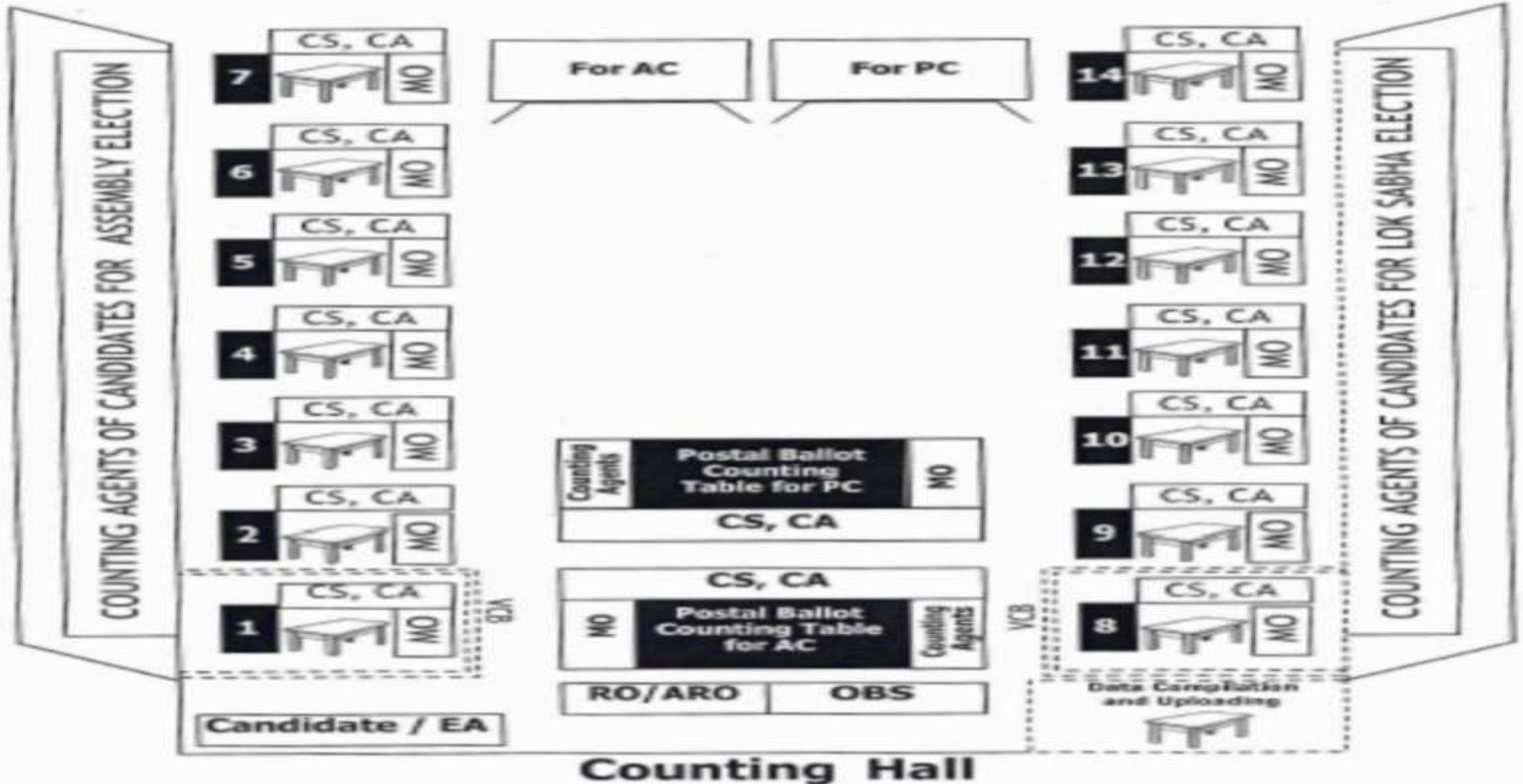
MO-1

Keep **watch over data entry in the computer** placed in the Counting Hall for round-wise compilation of the votes recorded for each candidate. Should ensure that the entries in the Part II of the Form 17C are correctly entered.

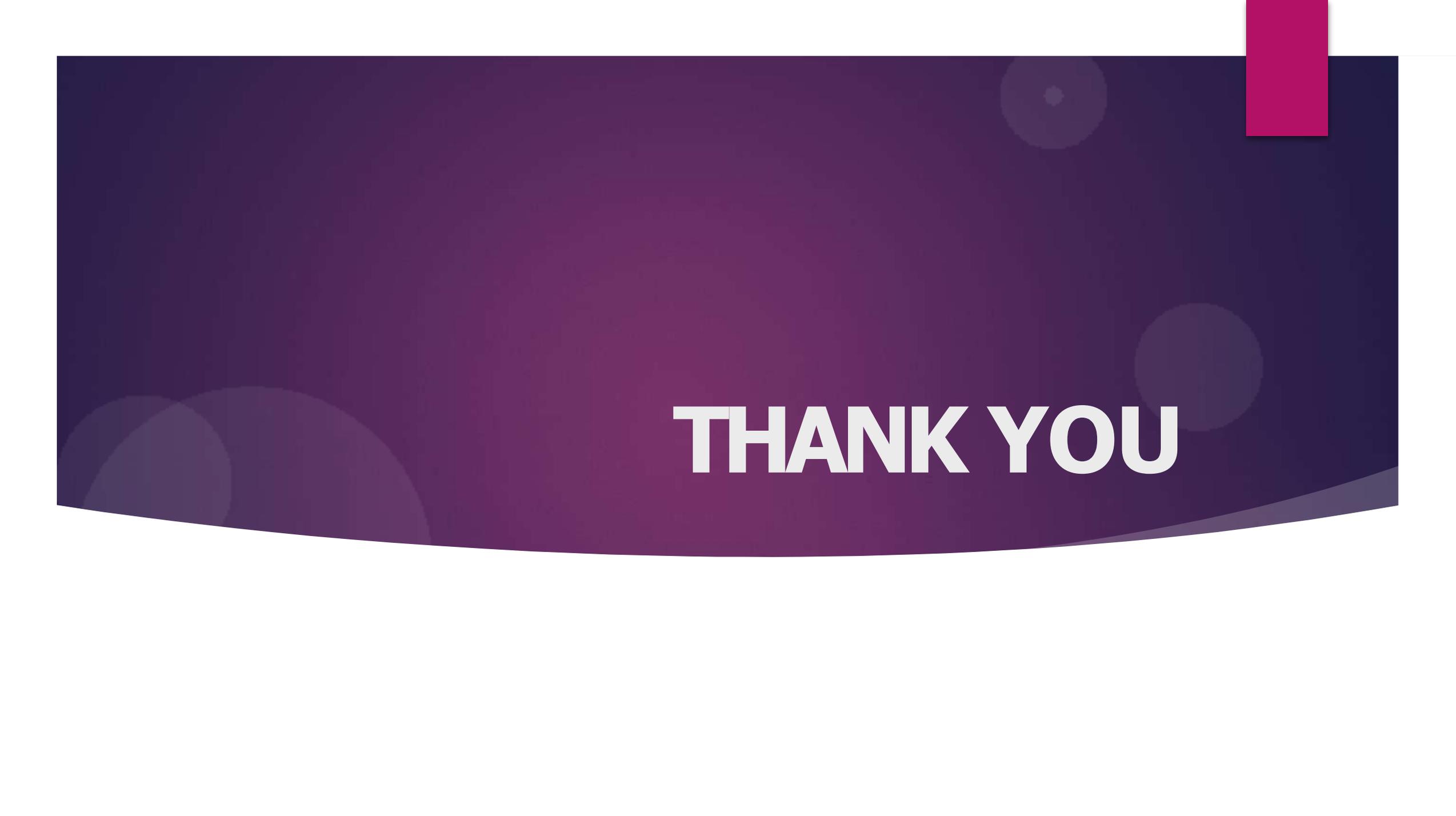
MO-2

Assist the Observer and **re-check on the printout** (of the data entered at MO-1) that all data which has been entered is fully correct, complete and **Tally with the original Part II of Form 17C** received from each counting table recorded for each candidate.

SAMPLE LAYOUT OF COUNTING CENTRE



ANY QUESTION ?



THANK YOU