

## Report of the EVM-Fact Finding Committee

In the 4<sup>th</sup> Students' Senate Meeting, a committee was constituted to look into the purchase and maintenance of Electronic Voting Machines as even after almost 8 months of their delivery, they are still not operational.

Bought from M/S Signal Circuits, Pune, the machines are of Multiple Voting Category costing approximately Rs.30000 each. At a time 96 candidates can contest on one machine for 6 different categories. The EVMs were bought in January 2013 with the intention to use them in the upcoming Gymkhana Elections. These machines were pre-programmed for standard elections and were of no use considering the Election Protocol of Students' Gymkhana. The machines were then meant to be re-programmed and tested in the HEC Elections which were to be conducted near the end of the Spring Semester.

A complaint was made by the GJ Team to the company regarding the reprogramming of the EVMs. The technician paid a visit to reprogram the machines. Apparently an attempt was made to test these machines during the Hall-3 HEC Elections conducted by the Chief Election Officer. The attempt was unsuccessful and a few machines were reported to be incapable of further use with issues like the machines being "hanged" and the buttons being stuck or missing.

Another complaint was made to the company stating the damage and problems faced during the earlier attempt. The complaint this was made by the Chief Election Officer. Due to the unavailability of the CEO during the Summer Vacations when the technician came, two students attended the technician. Some repairs were made but the machines weren't tested after the repairs.

In the beginning of this semester, the machines were again inspected and a few machines in particular seem to be tampered with as some scratches and overheating marks can be seen. Although, this can be accounted to the multiple attempts to make them work or a possibility of exchange of machines during the last repair.

Currently, the dealer of the EVMs has agreed to come over here and help us conduct a mock election and perhaps even a small workshop on operating the EVMs, with an agreement to repair/exchange a few degraded machines.

However, one issue still remains unaddressed. As stated in the invoice regarding the repair/manpower required, their DA Rs. 1000-per day + Travel Allowance + visit charge will be chargeable. The company attached tickets worth Rs. 20000 stating it to be the travel cost to be paid by the institute to which we object as to why such an extravagant mode of travel was chosen whereas a comfortable journey could be done through a 3<sup>rd</sup> AC/ 2<sup>nd</sup> AC class.

### **Recommendations:**

- The maintenance of capital investments like the EVM machines should be taken more seriously.
- Every time an official complaint is made, a Report should be made by the complainer stating the complaint, repairs made and the satisfactory/unsatisfactory nature of the repairs.

### **Following are the members of this committee.**

Naman Kumar (Chair)

Ayush Gupta

Shubham Atreja