

4.4 Polling Stations

Polling Stations are one of the most crucial aspects and the focal symbol of electoral democracy. Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 envisages that the District Election Officer (DEO) is responsible for the provision of polling station.

Finalization of Polling Stations

The ECI issued very elaborate instructions regarding Polling Stations covering procedure for listing of Polling Stations; publication of the list of draft Polling Stations and final publication of the list of Polling Stations. These were adhered to strictly.

The DEO(S/A)/RO-ANIPC and the CEO also convened meetings with all the Political Parties to finalize the Polling Stations and to ensure that the basic minimum facilities are provided as per the parameters of Election Commission of India's directions.

This was a very detailed exercise as it had to be ensured that people living in even the remotest areas had easy access to a Polling Station. A total of 39 new Polling Stations were set up for General Elections 2014.

In A & N Parliamentary Constituency, three Polling stations were declared as critical polling station and all the three of them were located in Nicobar district. Special arrangements such as appointment of Micro Observers and Videographic coverage of the entire Poll, as directed by the ECIs guidelines were put in place during the election.

It was noted that almost all the polling stations in the Territory are situated at a prominent location of the coverage area and are government buildings. Thus, Basic Minimum Facilities (BMF) in the polling station is majority of locations were not a major issue. However polling stations located in remote locations and where temporary structures were to be erected were identified to ensure that BMF are in place uniformly at all polling station in the Territory.

The list of all the Polling Stations showing the status of communication and basic minimum facilities available in each Polling Station of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Parliamentary Constituency were provided to all the Political Parties. They were in agreement with the list of Polling stations provided and the facilities provided therein.

Name of District	Tehsil	No. of Polling Stations
South Andaman District	Port Blair (Urban)	90
	Port Blair (Rural)	53
	Ferrar Gunj	52
	Little Andaman	17
N&M Andaman District	Diglipur	48
	Mayabunder	26
	Rangat	40
Nicobar District	Car Nicobar	16
	Nancowrie	23
	Campbelle Bay	21
	Total	386

Table 22

Polling Station - District-wise

Total Electoral Parts (Polling Stations)	386
Parts with <800 voters	229
Parts with >800 & <1200 voters	136
Parts with >1200 & < 1400 voters	21
Parts with > 1400	Zero
Parts with Zero electors	Zero

Table 23

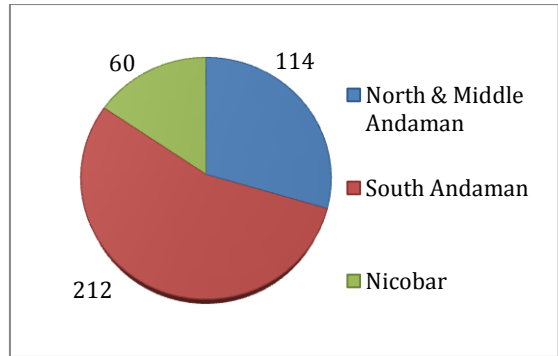


Table 24