

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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Lr.No. 919/SEC-B2/2013

Date: 14.07.2013

To
The Commissioner of Civil Supplies,
Civil Supplies Bhawan,
Somajiguda, Hyderabad.

Sir,

Sub:- Elections – 4th ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Permission sought for distribution of Essential Commodities in plastic bags by covering the pictures of the political functionaries with stickers – Reg.

Ref: 1. SEC Lr.No.919/SEC-B2/2013, dated 09.7.2013.
2. Note C.No.3868/CS-I/2013, dated 13.07.2013.

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Some of the District Collectors have sought clarification from the State Election Commission with regard to distribution of Essential Commodities in plastic bags depicting the pictures of the Chief Minister and the Minister for Civil Supplies under Amma Hastham scheme in view of the Model Code of Conduct in force in connection with ongoing ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats.

The Commission vide reference 1st cited issued a clarification that there is no objection for distribution of Essential Commodities through Public Distribution System subject to the condition that such Essential Commodities shall not be distributed in bags depicting the pictures of any political functionaries during the election period. In case it is not possible to supply Essential Commodities in bags without photos of political functionaries, the same should not be supplied till the completion of elections. It was also clarified that this shall also be applicable during the ensuing ordinary elections to Urban Local Bodies and MPTC/ZPTCs to be notified in the near future.

In the reference 2nd cited, the Commissioner (Civil Supplies) stated that large quantities of commodities in packets have been positioned in the Districts for distribution to the cardholders. It was also stated that it is not possible to supply again in packets without the pictures of political functionaries as it involves time and cost. He also stated that any delay in distribution shall badly affect the people living below the poverty line as most of them are dependent on these subsidized food grains. He further stated that all the commodities are likely to deteriorate if they are not immediately distributed and the approximate cost of these commodities is Rs.200 Crores.

(PTO)

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The Commissioner (Civil Supplies) requested the Commission to accord permission for distribution of nine Essential Commodities under "AMMA HASTHAM" programme to the families living below poverty line by putting stickers and covering the photographs and names of the political functionaries on the packets to prevent spoil of 10.69 crore packets of Essential Commodities worth Rs.200 crores and to ensure supply of nine Essential Commodities to the family of below poverty line.

The State Election Commission, after careful consideration of the circumstances explained in the above proposal, hereby clarify that distribution of Essential Commodities can be done subject to the condition that the photographs of the political functionaries depicted on the plastic bags containing Essential Commodities shall be completely masked in such a way that the photographs are not visible to the naked eye, so that no voter is influenced by the photographs depicted on the bags.

Yours faithfully,


SECRETARY

Copy to:

The M.D., A.P. Civil Supplies Corporation.

All the Collectors and District Election Authorities.

All the Joint Collectors.

All the District Supply Officers.

All the District Managers, Civil Supplies.

All the District Panchayat Officers.