

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

3rd Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M.G. Road, Hyderabad-500003, A.P.

CIRCULAR

No. 1350/SEC-B2/2013

Date: 20.07.2013

Sub:- Elections – 4th ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Model Code of Conduct – Districts affected by heavy rains and floods – Restrictions on distribution of relief materials by NGOs and others – Reg.

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Some of the areas in which elections are being held are affected by heavy rains and floods in the last few days. Relief and rehabilitation operations are taken up by the Government machinery, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and other individuals.

Since the campaign is taking place in all the Gram Panchayats where there is a contest for the office of Sarpanch and Ward Members in the entire State, the State Election Commission is vested with the responsibility to see that a balance is maintained in ensuring that not only relief operations are carried out to help the victims but also a level playing field is maintained to ensure free and fair elections and political functionaries / candidates do not influence voters in the garb of distributing relief material in the name of NGOs.

In order to achieve the above objective, the Commission hereby issues the following instructions.

1. The NGOs or any other individuals or groups, who intend to distribute relief material to the victims affected by heavy rains and floods, shall hand over their materials to the District Administration (Revenue Department) at District (Collector office), Divisional (RDO office) or Mandal level (Tahsildar office) who will distribute the same to the victims.
2. No publicity will be given to NGOs or any other individuals or groups who are donating relief material.
3. No contesting candidate or his supporters shall indulge in distribution of any material as this amounts to bribery and violation of Model Code of Conduct.

All the Collectors & DEAs are requested to follow the above instructions and also give wide publicity.


SECRETARY

To
The Chief Secretary to Government, AP, Hyderabad.
The Relief Commissioner, Revenue Department, AP, Hyderabad.
All the Collectors & DEAs.
All the District Panchayat Officers.