

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

3rd Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M.G. Road, Secunderabad – 500 003

CIRCULAR

No. 239/SEC-B2/2011-5

Date: 15.07.2013

Sub: State Election Commission – 4th Ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Merger of Polling Stations where there is unanimous election for Ward Members – Reg.

In Gram Panchayat elections, separate Polling Stations are set up for each Ward of a Gram Panchayat. Some of the District Panchayat Officers sought a clarification as to whether they can merge the Polling Stations where there is unanimous election of Ward Members as poll is to be conducted only for the office of Sarpanch (one vote only in those Polling Stations) as such an exercise will considerably reduce the expenditure on TA and DA payable to the Polling Personnel.

The State Election Commission, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby accords permission to the Collectors & District Election Authorities to merge Polling Stations, where there is unanimous election for the Ward Members or non-receipt of nominations for the offices of Ward Members as poll is held only for the office of Sarpanch in those Polling Stations subject to the following conditions.

- 1) Such merged Polling Stations shall not have a voting strength of more than 650 as poll is held from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- 2) The deployment of Polling Personnel in such merged Polling Stations shall be as per the yardstick given by the Commission taking into account the voting strength after such merger.
- 3) Only those Polling Stations which are located in the same premises or location can be merged. Polling Stations located in two different premises or locations cannot be merged.
- 4) Voter slips should be generated as per the merger proposed and distributed to the voter concerned.
- 5) Wide publicity shall be given in the polling area regarding the merger.

**Sd/- Navin Mittal
SECRETARY**

To
All the Collectors & District Election Authorities.
All the District Panchayat Officers.
Copy to: All Observers.

// Attested //


Joint Secretary