

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

3rd Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M G Road, Hyderabad – 500 003, A.P.

C I R C U L A R

No. 240/SEC-B2/2011

Date: 11.06.2013

Sub: State Election Commission – 4th Ordinary elections to the Gram Panchayats – Appointment of Returning Officers and Polling Personnel – Certain clarification – Issued – Reg.

Ref: SEC Circular No.240/SEC-B2/2011, Dated 30.05.2011.

In the reference cited, detailed instructions were issued with regard to appointment of Returning Officers and Polling Personnel in connection with 4th Ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats.

No specific instruction was issued therein regarding posting of Returning Officer / Assistant Returning Officer in native Mandal or village. With regard to appointment of Polling personnel, instructions were issued that Polling personnel should not be posted in their native villages / Gram Panchayats. It was also suggested that to the extent possible, the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers should be posted from the employees working in the neighbouring Mandals and not from the same Mandal in which the Gram Panchayat is located.

Now, some of the District Panchayat Officers are seeking clarifications and guidelines with regard to posting of Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers and Polling personnel in connection with Gram Panchayat elections.

In the elections to State Legislative Assembly / House of People, no person will be assigned polling duties in the Assembly Constituency in which he / she works or resides or in his / her home Constituency. Further, before General elections to State Legislative Assembly, persons of long-standing and working in native districts are transferred to eliminate scope for bias and to ensure free and fair elections. Before local body elections, such an exercise was not resorted to. The Commission, after careful consideration of the matter, decided to impose restrictions on posting of ROs / AROs and Polling personnel to the effect that they should not be posted in the Mandal where they reside or work or in their native Mandal to ensure free and fair elections.

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In view of the above, it is hereby clarified that **in connection with Gram Panchayat elections, no person shall be posted as Returning Officer / Assistant Returning Officer, Presiding Officer or Polling Officer in the Mandal where he / she resides or works or in his / her native Mandal.**

**Sd/- P. Ramakanth Reddy
State Election Commissioner**

To

**All the Collectors & District Election Authorities.
All the District Panchayat Officers.**

// Attested //


Joint Secretary