

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

CIRCULAR

No. 616/SEC-B1/2013

Date: 10 .07.2013

Sub:- Elections – 4th ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Clarification regarding closure of liquor shops in the polling areas during Gram Panchayat elections under Sec. 225A of the A.P.P.R. Act, 1994 – Reg.

Ref: SEC Notification No. 757/SEC-B2/2013, dated 03.07.2013.

The State Election Commission issued Notification in the reference cited for conduct of ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats in the State. As per the election programme notified by the Commission, poll is scheduled to be held in 3 Phases on 23.07.2013, 27.07.2013 and 31.07.2013 from 7.00 am to 1.00 pm. and counting of votes will be conducted on the same day from 2.00 pm onwards.

Clarifications are being sought with regard to closure of liquor shops on the polling and counting day as per law in connection with the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections.

Section 225A of A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 stipulates that "*No spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances of a like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other place, public or private, **within a polling area during the period of forty-four hours prior to the conclusion of poll in the case of Gram Panchayats and also on the counting day.***"

As per the above provision, liquor shops are to be closed in the 3 Phases as shown below.

Phase	Date of Poll and Counting	Period of closure of liquor shops
I-Phase	23.07.2013	From 5.00 pm on 21.07.2013 till the completion of counting of votes, declaration of results and Upa-Sarpanch election on 23.07.2013.
II-Phase	27.07.2013	From 5.00 pm on 25.07.2013 till the completion of counting of votes, declaration of results and Upa-Sarpanch election on 27.07.2013.
III-Phase	31.07.2013	From 5.00 pm on 29.07.2013 till the completion of counting of votes, declaration of results and Upa-Sarpanch election on 31.07.2013.

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That means, liquor shops can be considered to be operated from the evening onwards on 23.07.2013, 27.07.2013 and 31.07.2013, subject to the exigencies of law and order situations.

The Collectors and District Election Authorities are requested to follow the above time frame and give publicity.


SECRETARY

To

All the Collectors & District Election Authorities.

All the Superintendents of Police / Commissioners of Police.

All the District Panchayat Officers.

All the Dy. Commissioners of Prohibition & Excise Department.