

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

CIRCULAR

No. 884/SEC-B2/2013

Date: 07.7.2013

Sub: State Election Commission – 4th Ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Issue of Community Certificates to the candidates intend to contest elections to Gram Panchayats - Reg.

The State Election Commission has received certain complaints that the authorities competent to issue Community Certificates to the candidates intending to contest elections are acting in a casual and partisan manner in issuance of Community Certificates.

In this connection, attention is drawn to Rule 8(2)(c) of the A.P. Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules, 2006, which reads as under:

'A candidate for the office of Member or Sarpanch in a Gram Panchayat or Member in Mandal Parishad or Zilla Parishad, which is reserved, to be filled by a person belonging to the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes or Women or Backward Classes, as the case may be, shall not be deemed to be qualified to be chosen to fill that seat unless his nomination paper contains a declaration by him specifying the particular tribe or caste or class of which he is a member and the area in relation to which that Tribe or Caste is a Scheduled Tribe or as the case may be, a Scheduled Caste or Backward Class of the State. This declaration shall be made before any Gazetted Officer of the Government or before any Officer of the Revenue Department not below the rank of a Mandal Revenue Officer.'

In SEC Circular No. 449/SEC-B1/2011, dated 07.6.2011 (Page 164 and 165 of Compendium of Instructions issued by SEC), the Commission issued orders that a candidate can either produce a declaration in Part III of the Nomination Form as required under above mentioned Rule 8(2)(c) of the said rules **or a Community Certificate from competent authority under relevant law.**

As the process of receipt of nominations is scheduled to take place from 09.07.2013 to 13.07.2013 as per the election programme notified by the Commission in the Election Notification, all the Collectors and District Election Authorities are requested to give instructions to the Revenue authorities competent to issue Caste Certificates to process the applications filed by candidates intending to contest elections for issue of Community Certificates expeditiously following the prescribed procedure keeping in view the time bound election programme without giving scope for complaints of bias and delay.

Sd/- Navin Mittal
Secretary

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

// Attested //


Joint Secretary