

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M.G. Road, Hyderabad-500003, A.P.

**CIRCULAR**

**No. 1273/SEC-B1/2014**

**Date: 02.5.2014**

To

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

Sir/Madam,

Sub: State Election Commission – 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs  
– Counting of votes scheduled on 13.05.2014 – Certain instructions -  
Issued – Reg.

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The counting of votes in connection with ordinary elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs is scheduled to take place on 13.05.2014. The State Election Commission has incorporated detailed instructions in connection with counting of votes in Chapter-XVIII of Handbook for Returning Officers. The following further instructions are issued in order to see that the counting process is conducted in an orderly and transparent manner.

- (1) Entire counting process at each Counting Hall shall be videographed without violating the secrecy of voting as stipulated under Sec.217 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj Act 1994. Under no circumstances, the actual votes recorded on the ballot papers are to be photographed or captured by audio-visual coverage. The CD/DVD containing the video content should be kept in safe custody of the person authorised by the Collector & DEA.
- (2) Instructions were already issued in SEC Circular Nos. 167/SEC-B1/2011, dated 01.04.2014 and 03.04.2014 on the facilities to be provided to the Press and Electronic Media on the coverage of counting process. Further, no still camera or video camera of the Media personnel shall be allowed to be fixed inside the counting hall. Further, no camera stand should be allowed to be taken inside counting hall by media and journalists. Hand held cameras can be allowed to the authorised pass holders. While taking audio video coverage of the counting process, with camera carried in hand or on shoulders by the media / press, under no circumstances, the actual votes recorded on the ballot papers shall be photographed or covered by audio visual coverage. The exact location up to which the still and video camera of the media and press can move, should be indicated by the Returning Officer in advance, marked by a line or a string for guidance of all concerned.
- (3) The randomization of counting personnel is left to the discretion of the Collector & DEA.

(PTO)

- (4) The Collector & DEA shall make arrangements for uninterrupted power supply on the date of counting at the counting centres.
- (5) The Commission appointed two Observers for each district. These two Observers will cover the counting process in all the counting centres in the district.
- (6) The Collector & DEA shall appoint senior officers having adequate experience to supervise counting process in each counting centre. They may be designated as Additional Counting Observers. The Collector & DEA shall send a list of officers to be appointed as Additional Counting Observers to the Commission for approval.
- (7) Fool-proof security arrangements shall be made at the counting centres in consultation with the Superintendent of Police / Commissioner of Police.
- (8) Communication room / media room shall be set up at each counting centre and officials of Public Relations Department have to be posted for effective coordination and smooth passage of information. Adequate facilities such as telephone, fax and computer with printer may be provided at the media room. Use of mobile phones and other communication equipment shall be allowed from the media centre. Mobile phones shall not be used from anywhere else within the counting campus. Nobody, except Observer / Additional Counting Observer, shall be allowed to carry mobile phone inside the counting hall. Proper arrangements may be made for safe keeping of mobiles, etc., of the candidates and their agents / representatives.
- (9) Proper barricading shall be made inside each counting hall. The counting tables shall be placed against the barricade of woodblock and wire-mesh behind which the counting agents of candidates shall sit / stand. The agents shall not have physical access to the ballot papers, but must be able to clearly see the whole counting process at the counting table.

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

Copy to:

All Chief Executive Officers of ZPPs.

All Superintendents of Police / Commissioners of Police.

All Observers.

// Attested //

  
**Joint Secretary**