

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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Lr.No. 1326/SEC-B1/2014

Date: 12.05.2014

To
The Chief Executive Officer,
Zilla Praja Parishad,
Nalgonda District.

Sir,

Sub: State Election Commission – Ordinary elections to MPTCs/ZPTCs 2014 – Clarification sought on discharge of functions of Returning Officer of ZPTC election by Asst. Returning Officer of ZPTC election at the Mandal level - Clarification issued - Reg.

Ref: Your Fax Msg. No. D3/99/2014/ZPP, dated 11.05.2014.

In the reference cited, a clarification was sought as to whether the Assistant Returning Officer of ZPTC election discharging various responsibilities of the Returning Officer at the time of counting at Mandal level can also sign the Final Result Sheet (Form XXVI), Declaration of Result of Election (Form XXVII), Return of Election (Form XXVIII) and Certificate of Election (Form XXIX) on behalf of the Returning Officer of ZPTC election.

In this connection, attention is drawn to Rule 2(1)(I) of A.P. Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006, which reads as under:

- (I) **'Returning Officer'** means any officer of the local authority or the Government authorised or appointed by the Collector and District Election Authority to do any act or perform any function in connection with the conduct of elections under these rules.

Explanation: The Collector and District Election Authority may appoint one or more persons who shall be an Officer or Officers of the local authority or the Government, as **Assistant Returning Officer or Officers** to assist the Returning Officer in the performance of his functions and every Assistant Returning Officer so appointed shall, subject to the control of the Returning Officer, be competent to perform all or any of the functions of the Returning Officer and **the expression Returning Officer shall be deemed to include such Assistant Returning Officer also.**

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In view of the above position as provided in A.P. Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006, the Assistant Returning Officer of ZPTC election can perform the functions of the Returning Officer at the time of counting of votes and declaration of results at the Mandal level including signing of relevant forms prescribed in Election Rules such as Final Result Sheet (Form XXVI), Declaration of Result of Election (Form XXVII), Return of Election (Form XXVIII) and Certificate of Election (Form XXIX). Such an arrangement which is enabled by rules will be convenient and beneficial for both the candidates and the official machinery.

Yours faithfully
Sd/- Navin Mittal
SECRETARY

Copy to all Collectors & DEAs.

Copy to all Chief Executive Officers of ZPPs.

// Attested //


Joint Secretary 12/5/2014