

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
3rd Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M.G. Road, Hyderabad-500 003.

CIRCULAR

No. 1377/SEC-B1/2014-4

Date: 10.07.2014

Sub:- 4th Ordinary elections to MPPs and ZPPs - Problematic ZPP and MPPs where elections are due to be held on 13.7.2014 / 14.7.2014 - Special measures ordered - Seating arrangement and barricading - Further instructions issued - Reg.

Ref: 1. SEC Circular No. 1377/SEC-B1/2014, dtd.21.5.2014.
2. SEC Circular No. 1377/SEC-B1/2014, dtd.07.7.2014.
3. SEC Circular No. 1377/SEC-B1/2014-2, dtd.07.7.2014.

In the reference 1st cited, the State Election Commission issued the following instructions, among others, on the seating arrangements to be made in connection with conduct of indirect elections to MPPs and ZPPs.

X. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS OF MEMBERS:

The State Election Commission issues the following instructions with regard to seating arrangements of elected members and Ex-officio members in order to ensure that the meeting is conducted in an orderly and systematic manner.

1. *Only the Presiding Officer and the Observer (wherever appointed by the State Election Commission to oversee the indirect election) shall be allowed to sit on the dais.*
2. *The Ex-officio members (MPs, MLAs and MLCs) shall be provided seats in the front row.*
3. *The Members (Co-opted) are to be provided seats separately.*
4. *The directly elected territorial constituency members shall be seated in groups on party lines in the following manner.*
 - a) *The elected members of each recognized national and state political parties shall be provided seating in separate compartments.*
 - b) *Members of registered political parties may be seated in a separate compartment.*
 - c) *Independently elected members shall be provided separate compartment.*
 - d) *The seating arrangement within each compartment made for elected members belonging to the recognized political parties, registered political parties and independent members shall be with reference to the names of the candidates in alphabetical order within their respective groups.*

- e) *A display board shall be kept in front of each group/compartment for easy identification. This will be helpful to the presiding officer and observer as well as the print and electronic media to cover the event.*
- f) *A separate enclosure with a raised platform shall be made on either corner of the meeting hall for the members of press and electronic media who are allowed to cover the event.*

It was brought to the notice of the Commission that the instructions issued by the Commission as above on seating arrangement was not followed in some ZPPs and MPPs leading to pandemonium, disturbances and law and order problem inside the venue of the special meeting while conducting indirect elections to ZPPs and MPPs on 04.7.2014 and 05.7.2014. Complaints were received from some recognised political parties, ZPTC members, MPTC members and individuals regarding violation of instructions of the Commission on seating arrangements with an intent to induce members of one political party by the other to influence them during voting for political gains leading to disturbances and law and order problem.

The Commission issued orders on 05.7.2014 and 07.7.2014 for conduct of indirect elections on 13.7.2014 / 14.7.2014 in Ranga Reddy ZPP and some MPPs in Telangana State where election process was not conducted on 04.7.2014 / 05.7.2014 due to lack of quorum, law and order problem and other reasons.


The Commission issued instructions in the references 2nd and 3rd cited to take special measures including barricading inside the venue of the special meeting so that the Presiding Officer cannot be obstructed from discharging his responsibilities and the elected members belonging to different political parties and the ex-officio members can be seated separately within their allocated space.

The Commission hereby issues further instructions with regard to seating arrangement and barricading inside the venue of the special meeting in Ranga Reddy ZPP and problematic MPPs where there are apprehensions of disturbance and law and order problem as per the complaints made and inputs received by Collector & DEA and the Superintendent of Police / Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad.

- 1) Barricading should be done between different compartments accommodating ex-officio members and members belonging to different recognised political parties so that members belonging to one recognised political party cannot reach the members of other political party. It should also be ensured that ex-officio members cannot have access to elected members. If necessary, ex-officio members (MPs, MLAs and MLCs) belonging to different political parties may also be separately seated so that they cannot indulge in altercation among themselves leading to disturbances.
- 2) Barricading should be done in such a way that the Presiding Officer cannot be obstructed by any of the elected members or ex-officio members in discharging his functions related to conduct of election process smoothly.

- 3) Videography shall be undertaken from half-an-hour before the scheduled time fixed for commencement of special meeting till the completion of the entire process and the members disburse from the venue.
- 4) Any elected member intending to indulge in cross-voting as per his wishes shall do so by sitting in the compartment to which he is assigned based on the party on behalf of which he was elected as member of ZPP / MPP.
- 5) No member shall be allowed to move from one compartment to the other under any circumstances. Any member or ex-officio member objecting to this arrangement shall be restrained and allowed to leave the venue if he so desires.
- 6) The Presiding Officer shall not postpone the election if the quorum is fulfilled under any circumstances and members disrupting the process of election shall be restrained and asked to leave the venue if they flout the instructions issued on seating arrangement and orderly conduct of election.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER)


SECRETARY

To
All Collectors & District Election Authorities in Telangana State.
All Superintendents of Police in Telangana State.
The Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad.
All Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads in Telangana State.
Copy to the Press and Electronic Media.

