

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M.G.Road, Secunderabad - 500 003.**

**CIRCULAR**

**No.176/SEC-B1/2011**

**Date: 09.04.2014**

Sub:- Elections – 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary elections to MPTCs / ZPTCs - Appointment of Polling Agents by contesting candidates on the day of poll – Certain clarification - issued – Reg.

Ref: SEC Direction No. 176/SEC-B1/2011, dated 11.05.2011.

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In the reference cited, detailed guidelines were given regarding appointment of Polling Agents by contesting candidates in elections to Panchayat Raj Bodies. These guidelines supersede the guidelines issued earlier and followed in the elections to Panchayat Raj Bodies held in the year 2006, which provide for Police verification of antecedents of persons to be appointed as Polling Agents. Police verification of antecedents of persons to be appointed as Polling Agents is not necessary for the ongoing elections. Therefore, the guidelines issued in the reference cited shall only be followed in connection with appointment of Polling Agents for the ongoing elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs.

It is mainly laid down in the reference cited that the Polling Agents shall be ordinarily residents and electors of the concerned polling areas only. Some of the contesting candidates, representatives of political parties and officials sought a clarification as to whether polling area mentioned in the said guideline means the Polling Station concerned or MPTC concerned or ZPTC concerned.

It is clarified that polling area means the Polling Station. A Polling Agent should be a registered voter in the Polling Station concerned.

Some of the Collectors & DEAs / CEOs of ZPPs and representatives of political parties are seeking permission to appoint persons registered as voters in other Polling Stations within that MPTC or ZPTC as Polling Agents stating that in some faction ridden villages local residents and voters are frightened to act as Polling Agents as persons who acted as Polling Agents in the past elections were subjected to harassment and loss / destruction of their properties.

The State Election Commission, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby, issues the following further instructions to facilitate the contesting candidates to appoint Polling Agents in the faction ridden and violence prone villages.

- 1) Appointment of persons who are registered voters in the Polling Station concerned is a rule and exception can be considered only in deserving and compelling cases based on the recommendation of the Collector & DEA in consultation with Superintendent of Police concerned in order to see that the candidates interests are not adversely affected due to absence of any Polling Agent on his behalf.

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- 2) The Collectors & DEAs in consultation with SPs concerned may identify the villages requiring exception from the general rule and obtain clearance from the State Election Commission indicating the names of the villages where the District administration can allow voters from outside the Polling Station area but within MPTC / ZPTC area concerned to be appointed as Polling Agents.
- 3) The Collectors & DEAs and SPs concerned may take adequate steps to instill confidence among the candidates and also the persons within the Polling Station area who come forward to work as Polling Agents in faction ridden and violence prone villages. If this effort fails, exception from general rule may be considered by recommending the names of villages to the Commission.

**Sd/- Navin Mittal**  
**Secretary**

To  
All the Collectors and District Election Authorities.  
All the Superintendents of Police.  
All the Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads.

// Attested //

  
**Joint Secretary**