

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

CIRCULAR

No. 789/SEC-B1/2014

Date: 01.04.2014

Sub:- Elections – 4th ordinary elections to MPTCs/ZPTCs – Ban on electioneering during the prohibitory period of forty eight hours prior to the hour fixed for conclusion of poll under section 214 of A.P. Panchayat Act, 1994 – Reg.

The State Election Commission issued Notification No.222/SEC-B1/2014-2, dated 29.03.2014 for conduct of MPTC/ZPTC elections in two phases on 06.04.2014 and 11.04.2014. Under Section 214 of A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, there is a ban on campaigning including display or propagation of any election matter capable of influencing the voter in the electronic media during the period of forty-eight hours prior to the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in the polling areas concerned. This statutory prohibitory period operates as under:-

Phase of Poll	Date of Poll	Prohibitory Period
1st Phase	06.04.2014 (From 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	From 5:00 PM on 04.04.2014 to 5:00 PM on 06.04.2014
2nd Phase	11.04.2014 (From 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	From 5:00 PM on 09.04.2014 to 5:00 PM on 11.04.2014

Section 214 of A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 reads as under.

Prohibition of public meetings before the date of poll:-

(1) *No person shall –*

- (a) *convene, hold or attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or*
- (b) *display to the public any election matter by means of cinematography, television or other similar apparatus; or*
- (c) *propagate any election matter to the public by holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto, **in any polling area during the period of forty-eight hours prior to the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in the case of Mandal Praja Parishads and Zilla Praja Parishads and forty four hours prior to the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in the case of Gram Panchayats.***

(PTO)

- (2) *any person who contravenes the provision of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine or with both.*
- (3) *In this section, the expression "election matter" means any matter intended or calculated to influence or affect the result of election.*

Therefore, any television channel violating the said provision is liable to be prosecuted and the persons indulging in such offence are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or both.

All Political Parties, contesting candidates and managements of electronic media are requested to take note this legal provision and see that it is implemented strictly to ensure free and fair elections.

All the Collectors & DEAs, Superintendents of Police/Commissioners of Police and officials of Information & Public Relations Department shall take all necessary steps for strict implementation of this legal provision.

Sd/-Navin Mittal
SECRETARY

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

Copy to:
The Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department.
All Political Parties.
The Managements of Electronic Media.

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Joint Secretary