

**Elections/ Most Immediate**

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M G Road, Secunderabad – 500 003.

**C I R C U L A R**

**No.528/SEC-F1/2011-4**

**Dated: 01-07-2011**

Sub:- Conduct of 4<sup>th</sup> ordinary elections to Urban Local Bodies - Identification of critical polling stations and measures to be taken to ensure free and fair elections – Instructions – Issued - Reg.

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In order to ensure free and fair elections to the office of ward members in Urban Local Bodies, the Commission has decided to deploy sufficient police force at all polling stations to maintain law and order. However, in order to identify the critical polling stations, which may require some more additional measures, the following criteria shall be followed by the Election Authority & Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration, AP., Hyderabad and Collector & DEAs, Commissioners of Police, all Superintendents of Police, all the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and all Municipal Commissioners in the State.

1. The polling stations identified as critical polling stations during the recently held general elections to the APLA & HOP, 2009 based on the criteria fixed by the ECI in reference No.464/INST/2008-EPS, dt.24-10-2008 shall also be categorized as critical polling stations for 4<sup>th</sup> ordinary elections to the Urban Local Bodies if the polling area of the Assembly polling station and polling station setup for ensuing Urban Local Body elections remained the same.
2. Basing on the experience gained in conduct of elections to AP Legislative Assembly / House of Parliament, 2009, the election machinery for the Urban Local Bodies may do a vulnerability mapping of areas that are vulnerable for threat and intimidation polling stations identified as having vulnerable pockets shall be listed.
3. The polling stations that went for re-poll during the 3<sup>rd</sup> ordinary elections held to Urban Local Bodies during the year 2005 and recently held elections to AP Legislative Assembly and House of Parliament due to the electoral mal-practices; reported and the polling stations that witnessed any sort of electoral violence shall be identified.
4. The Election Authority & Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration, AP., Hyderabad and Collector & DEAs, Commissioners of Police and all Superintendents of Police in the State shall factor all the above inputs while finally identifying the critical polling stations for making additional measures. The Observers appointed by the Commission shall be consulted while finalizing the list of critical polling stations as per the above instructions.
5. The above instructions shall be followed without fail.
6. With reference to the polling stations identified as critical polling stations on account of other indicators listed above one or all of the following measures shall be put in place.
  - i) The presence of sufficient police force to safeguard the polling station.

- ii) Digital camera or video camera shall be positioned in the polling station. The procedure for deploying such cameras may be followed as was done in the recently held elections to the Assembly/Parliament, 2009.
- iii) The Presiding Officer shall be specially briefed to ensure that the EPIC/approved identification document, if any, are properly verified and reflected in the remarks column in Form XXXIV in respect of Municipal Corporations and Form XXI in respect of Municipalities & Nagar Panchayats (Register of Voters).
- iv) Deployment of Micro-Observers.
- v) The list of such polling stations shall be given to the concerned Police Officers (not below the rank of Station House Officer) so that they can also keep an eye on such polling stations.
- vi) The above instructions shall be brought to the notice of all concerned.
- vii) A copy of this circular be handed over to all Observers.


**Sd/- K. Ram Gopal**  
**SECRETARY**

To

- 1) The EA & Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration, AP., Hyderabad.
- 2) All the Collectors & DEAs in the State.
- 3) The Commissioners of Police concerned.
- 4) All the Superintendents of Police in the State.
- 5) All the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in the State.
- 6) All the Municipal Commissioners in the State.
- 7) All the Regional Directors-cum-Appellate Commissioners of Municipal Administration in the State.

Copy to the Secretary to Govt., MA&UD Department, AP., Secretariat, Hyderabad.

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**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

