

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

CIRCULAR

No. 1272/SEC-F1/2014

Date: 02.5.2014

To

All the Collectors & District Election Authorities.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: State Election Commission – 4th Ordinary elections to Municipal Bodies – Counting of votes scheduled on 12.05.2014 – Certain instructions - Issued – Reg.

The counting of votes in connection with ordinary elections to Municipal Bodies is scheduled to take place on 12.05.2014. The State Election Commission has incorporated detailed instructions in connection with counting of votes in the Handbook for Returning Officers of Municipal Corporations and Handbook for Election Officers of Municipalities / Nagar Panchayats.

The Commission issued instructions in Circular No.628/SEC-F1/2014, dated 26.03.2014 to undertake counting of votes of a Ward in one counting table instead of doing it on different tables.

The following further instructions are issued in order to see that the counting process is conducted in an orderly and transparent manner.

- (1) Entire counting process at each Counting Hall shall be videographed without violating the secrecy of voting. Under no circumstances, the actual votes recorded on an individual EVM shall be photographed or captured by audio-visual coverage. The CD/DVD containing the video content should be kept in safe custody of the person authorised by the Collector & DEA.
- (2) Instructions were already issued in SEC Circular No.684/SEC-F2/2014, dated 28.03.2014 on the facilities to be provided to the Press and Electronic Media on the coverage of counting process. Further, no still camera or video camera of the Media personnel shall be allowed to be fixed inside the counting hall. Further, no camera stand should be allowed to be taken inside counting hall by media and journalists. Hand held cameras can be allowed to the authorised pass holders. While taking audio video coverage of the counting process, with camera carried in hand or on shoulders by the media / press, under no circumstances, the actual votes recorded on an individual EVM shall be photographed or covered by audio visual coverage. The exact location up to which the still and video camera of the media and press can move, should be indicated by the Returning Officer / Election Officer in advance, marked by a line or a string for guidance of all concerned.

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- (3) The randomization of counting personnel is left to the discretion of the Collector & DEA.
- (4) The Collector & DEA shall make arrangements for uninterrupted power supply on the date of counting at the counting centres.
- (5) The Commission appointed two Observers for each district. These two Observers will cover the counting process in all the counting centres in the district.
- (6) The Collector & DEA shall appoint senior officers having adequate experience to supervise counting process in each counting centre. They may be designated as Additional Counting Observers. The Collector & DEA shall send a list of officers to be appointed as Additional Counting Observers to the Commission for approval.
- (7) Fool-proof security arrangements shall be made at the counting centres in consultation with the Superintendent of Police / Commissioner of Police.
- (8) Communication room / media room shall be set up at each counting centre and officials of Public Relations Department have to be posted for effective coordination and smooth passage of information. Adequate facilities such as telephone, fax and computer with printer may be provided at the media room. Use of mobile phones and other communication equipment shall be allowed from the media centre. Mobile phones shall not be used from anywhere else within the counting campus. Nobody, except Observer / Additional Counting Observer, shall be allowed to carry mobile phone inside the counting hall. Proper arrangements may be made for safe keeping of mobiles, etc., of the candidates and their agents / representatives.
- (9) Proper barricading shall be made inside each counting hall. The counting tables shall be placed against the barricade of woodblock and wire-mesh behind which the counting agents of candidates shall sit / stand. The agents shall not have physical access to the EVM, but must be able to clearly see and note the contents on the monitor / EVM display panel.

Sd/- P. Ramakanth Reddy
State Election Commissioner

Copy to:

All Commissioners of Municipal Corporations / Municipalities / Nagar Panchayats.

All Superintendents of Police / Commissioners of Police.

All Observers.

// Attested //


Joint Secretary