

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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

C I R C U L A R

No. 628/SEC-F1/2014

Date: 26.03.2014

Sub: 4th Ordinary Elections to Municipal Bodies – Handbook of Returning Officers of Municipal Corporations and Handbook of Election Officers of Municipalities / Nagar Panchayats – Instructions issued on counting of votes – Modified to provide for undertaking counting of votes for a ward in one counting table – Reg.

In the video conference conducted by the State Election Commissioner on 25.03.2013, the Collector & DEA, Nizamabad suggested that counting of votes relating to all polling stations in a ward may be undertaken in one table instead of doing it on different tables available in the counting hall and requested to modify instructions issued in the Handbook of Returning Officers for elections to Municipal Corporations (Page 96) / Election Officers for elections to Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats (Page 88) on this subject. He expressed that in this arrangement, the number of counting agents appointed by the candidates will be less and their access can be restricted to one table.

The State Election Commission, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby issues the following instructions in the matter.

- 1) The counting of votes of all the polling stations in a ward shall be undertaken on only one counting table. The 1st Ward has to be assigned to 1st counting table and 2nd Ward to 2nd counting table and so on depending on the number of tables that are set up in a counting hall. Serial order for polling stations in a particular ward may be maintained while counting at the assigned table. This arrangement is suitable for ward constituencies as the contesting candidates need not set up multiple counting agents for more than one table.
- 2) If the number of tables available is less than the total number of wards in an urban local body, after completion of counting of votes of a ward on a table, another ward can be taken up for counting on that table.
- 3) The wards allotted to a particular table may be announced in advance so that the counting agents can go to the area allotted for the seating.

Instructions contained in the Handbooks referred to above stand modified to this effect.

**Sd/- Navin Mittal
Secretary**

To

All the Collectors & District Election Authorities.

All the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations / Municipalities / Nagar Panchayats.

// Attested //



Joint Secretary