

Council Elections

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS-D) DEPARTMENT

Memo No. 352/Elecs.D/2013-1

Dated: 01.02.2013

Sub:- Elections to Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from 3 Graduates' and 3 Teachers' Constituencies – Conduct of elections – Certain instructions – Reiterated.

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The District Election Officers of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda Districts are aware that biennial elections are being held to East-West Godavari Graduates', Krishna-Guntur Graduates', Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' Constituencies, Srikakulam-Vizianagaram-Visakhapatnam Teachers', Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Teachers' and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' Constituencies. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer have issued instructions from time to time and also supplied manuals and booklets giving details for smooth conduct of elections. However, certain important issues to be carefully monitored at the time of conducting elections to these constituencies are reiterated below:

APPOINTMENT OF POLLING PERSONNEL

- (i) At a single election or where the polling station for graduates' and teachers' is different, polling party will normally consist of one Presiding Officer and three polling officers. At a simultaneous election or where there is a common polling station for both Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies, the polling party shall consist of 5 Polling Officers, besides the Presiding Officer. Only one ballot box at a time will be used at common polling station. The ballot papers for both graduates (white colour) and Teachers in (Pink Colour) will be inserted in the same ballot box.
- (ii) Assignment of duties to Polling Officers and application of indelible ink has been detailed in the Hand Book for Presiding Officers.
- (iii) The District Election Officer has to select staff from other Departments according to availability and suitability and make them available to the Returning Officer. A list of persons suitable for appointment as polling personnel in the various capacities,

(P.T.O.)

separately for each polling station proposed to be located in their respective areas and also the reserve polling personnel should be drawn up in advance. The list should contain clear particulars about the name of the officer, his official designation and address and his designation at the polling station. After it is known that there will be a contest, appointment orders should be issued in the same form as was adopted for the Assembly elections. The personnel selected for polling duties may be given training in at least two classes at some convenient centre in the district. The Handbook for Presiding Officers should be used as basis for training to the POs.

- (iv) As far as possible, the teaching staff should not be appointed as polling personnel. No voter in Graduates' and Teachers' Constituency is selected for appointment as Presiding Officer or Polling Officer.[vide Para 6.3 of Chapter-III of Hand Book for Returning Officers for Council Elections].

POSTAL BALLOTS:

According to Rule 18(b) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the following persons shall, subject to their fulfilling the requirements specified, be entitled to vote by post at an election in a council constituency, namely,-

- a) voters on election duty;
- b) electors subjected to preventive detention; and
- c) electors in the whole or any specified parts of the constituency, if directed by the Election Commission in this behalf under clause (b) of rule 68

'Electors subjected to Preventive detention' means any person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force (Para 12.2 of Chapter-IX of Hand Book for Returning Officers for Council Elections)

'A voter on election duty' means a Polling Agent, Polling Officer, Presiding Officer or other public servant who is an elector in the constituency and is by reason of his being on election duty, unable to vote at the polling station where he is entitled to vote. Thus, the Observers appointed by the Commission and their staff members accompanying them are also voters election duty.

It may be noted that the facility to vote on the basis of 'Election Duty Certificate' at the polling station on which a Voter on

election duty, is posted, which is available under the provisions of Rules 20(2) and 35A of the Conduct of Election Elections, 1961 to polling personnel in Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies, **is not available in Council Constituencies.** (vide para 6.4 in Chapter III of Hand Book for R.Os. regarding polling personnel).

PRINTING OF BALLOT PAPERS:

The ballot papers including postal ballot papers will be printed at Government Central Press, Chanchalguda. The ROs / DEOs shall assess the requirement of ballot papers as mentioned in Chapter IX of Hand Book for Returning officers (State Legislative Council) and furnish the requirement of Ballot Papers and Postal Ballot Papers for the current biennial Elections through the authorized person along with the list of contesting candidates (Form-7B) to this office for taking further action.

BALLOT BOXES:

Ballot boxes are being used in the elections to the Council Constituencies. All DEOs shall keep ready the sufficient number of boxes for the use. Each polling station should be supplied with two ballot boxes – one big size and one small size. When the big size ballot box gets filled with ballot papers, no more paper can be inserted in it and another empty box should be placed in its place for continuing the poll, after preparing the new ballot box for balloting in the same manner as the first. Route and Zonal Officers should be provided with reserve ballot boxes. There may be common polling stations for Graduates' and Teachers' in Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates & Teachers' Constituencies. At such polling stations, a common ballot box shall be used at one time for receiving the ballot papers of both the elections (Graduates' & Teachers'). As the ballot papers will be of different colours, they can be easily separated at the time of counting. This has already been explained in Circular Memo No.3835/Elecs.A/2007-26, dt.17.02.2007 (Circular No.9).

POLLING STATIONS:

The Commission has already approved the list of polling stations and accordingly, the electoral rolls have been published by the Electoral Registration Officers concerned. If there is a necessity to bifurcate the existing polling station due to over strength of the electors, necessary proposals should be submitted to the Election Commission of India through Chief Electoral Officer for creation of Auxiliary Polling Stations. The proposed auxiliary polling station should invariably be accommodated in the same premises. No new polling stations or

shifting of polling stations from one area to another area shall not be allowed. In case of change of location on account of the condition of the building, proposal shall be submitted with full justification ensuring that the change of location of the polling station be adjacent to the existing polling station.

If any changes are required to the existing list of polling stations as mentioned above, necessary proposal shall be submitted along with the total list of polling stations, creation of auxiliary polling stations, location changes, change of nomenclature duly consulted with the representatives of the political parties. The Minutes of the meeting with political parties and scrutiny sheet shall also be submitted along with the proposal by 02.02.2013 as already called for in the Memo No.259/Elecs.A/2013-2, dt.23.01.2013 read with Memo No.259/Elecs.A/2013-3, dt.21.01.2013.

The District Election Officers and Returning Officers shall follow the above instructions and acted upon scrupulously.

V.VENKATESWARA RAO,
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER (i/c) &
ADDL. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

To

The Collectors & District Election Officers of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda Districts

The Returning Officer of the Council Constituencies.

Copy to Elections-A, B & F Sections.

//Forwarded :: By Order//

P. Krishna Rao
SECTION OFFICER