

"Elections / Most Urgent"

" By Fax/ e-mail/Post"

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (ELECTIONS.F) DEPARTMENT

Memo No.217/Elecs.F/2014-34

Dated:11.5.2014.

**Sub:- Appointment of Counting Agent – ECI Clarification
and Appointment of counting agent to watch the
proceeding at RO/ARO table - Communicated - Reg.**

Ref:- 1.E.C.I. Lr.No.464/INST/2014/EPS, dt. 9.5.2014.
2.E.C.I. Lr.No.464/INST/2014/EPS, dt.10.5.2014.

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A copy of the reference cited is communicated to all the Collectors and District Election Officers and the Commissioner, G.H.M.C. & D.E.O., Hyderabad and they are requested to follow the **clarification regarding "Appointment of Counting Agent and Appointment of counting agent to watch the proceeding at RO/ARO table "** issued by the ECI in the references cited.

This clarification and instructions shall also be communicated to all concerned including the Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers / Observers and Contesting Candidates.

V.VENKATESWARA RAO,
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
Andhra Pradesh.

To
All the District Collectors & D.E.Os(w.es.)
The Commissioner, G.H.M.C., & D.E.O., Hyderabad (w.es)

Copy to:

All the Returning Officers of Parliamentary & Assembly Constituencies (w.es)
through the D.E.Os., concerned.

// FORWARDED: BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 464/INST/2014-EPS

Dated:- 10th May, 2014

To

The Chief Electoral Officer
of all States /UTs.

Sub:- General Election to Lok Sabha , 2014 Appointment of counting agent to watch the proceeding at RO/ARO table – reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to invite your attention to Para 15.12 (Counting Agents of Candidates) of Chapter XV (Counting of Votes) of RO Handbook which specifies that each candidate should be allowed to appoint as many counting agents as there are counting tables and one more to watch the proceedings of counting at the Returning Officer's table / ARO's table.

This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

GI
No. 9697
Date : 11-5-2014
Section

Yours faithfully,


(Sumit Mukherjee)
Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 464/INST/2014/EPS

Dated:- 9th May, 2014

To

The Chief Electoral Officers,
of all States/UTs.

Sub: Appointment of Counting Agent – Clarification regarding.

Ref: (i) Commission's letter No. 464/INST-2014/EPS dated 08.05.2014;
(ii) Commission's letter No. 464/INST/2014/EPS dated 01.04.2014;
(iii) Commission's letter No. 464/INST/2009/EPS dated 28.04.2009.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Commission's Instructions referred to above on the subject cited, and to state that certain clarifications have been sought as to who can be appointed as Counting Agent of a candidate during an election.

2. It is stated here that the law does not prescribe any specific qualifications for persons to be appointed as counting agents. However, the candidates are advised to appoint mature persons who are above 18 years as their counting agents so that their interests are properly watched.

3. Since security personnel are not allowed to enter the counting hall as per standing instructions of the Election Commission, no sitting Minister either of Union Government or of a State Government, sitting Member of Parliament, sitting Member of Legislative Assembly/Legislative Council or any other person having security cover provided by the State (both Union and State Govts.) will be allowed to act as Election Agent, Polling Agent or Counting Agent of any candidate during an election. Also no person having security cover will be allowed to surrender his security cover to act as such agent of a candidate during an election. He cannot enter the counting hall along with his security personnel; his security cannot be put to jeopardy by allowing him to enter the hall without any security cover.

4. To eliminate any doubt, it is clarified that the following persons cannot be appointed as Counting Agent of a candidate during an election :


GI
No. 9695
Date : 11-5-2014
Section

- 4
- (i) Any sitting Minister of Union Government,
 - (ii) Any sitting Minister of a State Government,
 - (iii) Sitting Member of Parliament,
 - (iv) Sitting Member of Legislative Assembly/Legislative Council,
 - (v) Chief/Head/Chairperson of Urban Local Bodies, viz., Mayor of a Corporation,
Chairperson of Municipality/Nagar Panchayat,
 - (vi) Chairperson of District Level Zila Parishad/Block Level Panchayat Samiti,
 - (vii) Elected Chairpersons of National/State/District co-operative institutions,
 - (viii) Political functionaries appointed as Chairpersons of Central PSUs/State PSUs,
Chairperson of Government bodies, Government Pleader/Additional Govt.
Pleader,
 - (ix) Any Government servant.

5. In addition to the above, the Commission has received a reference as to whether only local persons, who are residents of the constituency, shall only be permitted to become counting agents for the counting of votes. In this connection, it is clarified that as per law and the existing instructions of the Commission, there is no such restriction that only local persons shall be permitted to become counting agents for the counting of votes. The candidate is free to nominate any person above 18 years as their counting agents so that their interests are properly watched.

6. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned including the ROs/AROs/candidates and observers, etc.

Yours faithfully,


(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
SECRETARY