

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Endorsement

Roc.No.116032/Elec.1/2019

Dt: 06/07/2019

Communicated TSEC Circular No. 955/TSEC-ULBs/2018, dt. 14.11.2018 regarding "Measures to be taken to ensure free and fair elections, prevention of intimidation to the voters of vulnerable sections and identification of critical polling stations" for immediate necessary action.

SREEDEVI T K

#ApprovedByDeisgnation#

To:

1. The Municipal Commissioners of all the ULBs
(Through the RDMA, Hyderabad & Warangal)
2. The RDMA, Hyderabad & Warangal to communicate the above to all the ULBs and to monitor and pursue immediate action by ULBs
3. Copy to all the District Collectors and District Election Officers in the State for necessary action

Signature valid

Digitally signed by
SREEDEVI
Date: 2019.07.06 17:35:03 IST
Reason: I am the author



0 Elections/ Most Immediate

pl follow up

TELANGANA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
1st Floor, DTCP Building, OPP: PTI Building, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad – 500 004.

CIRCULAR

Cir.No.955/TSEC-ULBs/2018

Dated: 14.11.2018

Sub:- TSEC – Elections to Urban Local Bodies - Measures to ensure free and fair elections – Prevention of intimidation to the voters of vulnerable sections – Identification of critical Polling Stations – Measures to be taken – Instructions Issued - Reg.

In order to ensure free and fair elections to the office of Ward Members in Urban Local Bodies, the State Election Commission, Telangana has been issuing instructions regarding various measures to be taken. An atmosphere in which each and every elector is able to access the polling station without being obstructed or being unduly influenced by anybody is an important prerequisite to a free and fair election. Undue influence at elections is an electoral offence under Section 171C of the IPC. Any Voluntary interference or attempt at interfering with the free exercise of any electoral right constitutes the crime of undue influence at an election. Any direct or indirect interference or attempt to interfere by a candidate or his agent, or any other person at the behest of the candidate or his election agent against free exercise of any electoral right, constitutes a corrupt practice.

Taking due cognizance of the role being played by the muscle power in the Elections and taking into account of certain prevailing socio economic realities of the electoral politics, the Commission has decided to issue the following instructions to curb the menace of threat, intimidation and undue influence at an election by identifying the locations within a polling station area vulnerable for such threat and intimidation:

1. An exercise to identify the habitats and segments of electorate vulnerable to any threat, intimidation or interference with the free exercise of electoral right shall be taken up polling station wise. The Zonal officers for their respective polling stations shall do this exercise by visiting the catchment areas of the polling stations. The Station House Officer and local civil authorities such as Municipal Authorities/Tahsildar shall also be consulted and their inputs taken into account before finalizing the list. They should identify the source of such threat/intimidation/undue influence and identify the names of persons who are likely to spearhead such offence. While doing this exercise they shall take into account the past incidents, and current apprehensions.

2. They shall establish sustainable points of contact within the habitat/community vulnerable for such undue influence so that information related to such developments can be tracked constantly.
3. The Returning Officer/Election Officer as the case may be of the Ward duly consulting with the SHO and Tahsildar concerned should compile all such information and finalize the vulnerability mapping for the entire Ward, and polling station wise in format – I (enclosed)
4. The Election Authority/District Election Authority/Returning Officer/Election Officer/Commissioner of Police/Superintendent of Police shall initiate all preventive measures to foil such intimidation/obstruction. They shall initiate confidence-building measures to bolster the voters' confidence about the arrangements for free and fair poll. They shall undertake tours to such locations and meet the communities and explain the arrangements made for the free and fair poll.
5. The Election Authority/Returning Officer/Election Officer shall interact with the candidates and representatives of political parties to gather regular feedback. The District intelligence shall give regular feedback on the subject to the District Election Authority through SP and in case of GHMC to the Election Authority & Commissioner, GHMC through the Commissioner of Police as the case may be.
6. The Election Authority/Returning Officer/Election Officer shall compile the information for entire Municipality / Municipal Corporation and upon the arrival of the Observers hand over the details of the polling station wise vulnerability mapping for the relevant Municipality / Municipal Corporation. The observer will also visit such locations and interact with the voters and constantly monitor the developments.
7. In case of GHMC, the Commissioner of GHMC, Hyderabad, & Election Authority, and in case of other ULBs the Collectors & DEAs, Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police should hold a joint review on the subject and finalize a focused action plan to deal with the potential threats and intimidation points identified. The action plan may include, Inter-alia, binding over the potential trouble mongers under appropriate sections of the law, preventive detention if required, forcing their appearance in local police stations at reasonable intervals to ensure their good behavior, placement of police pickets, regular confidence building visits etc. It has to be ensured that all such measures are undertaken in absolutely non-partisan manner without fear or favour towards any particular party. The Commissioners of Police / Superintendents of Police compile information on action taken against persons identified for causing vulnerability for ward-wise of ULB concerned in a format – II (enclosed).
8. The Zonal and Sectoral Officers to monitor the events on the poll day shall take such pre-identified vulnerable locations into account for effective tracking. If the normal Zonal route map does not cover the

vulnerable locations, special arrangements shall be made for this purpose. The Zonal officers shall make regular visits to those localities in advance and collect information and keep the senior officers informed.

9. Where there is a cluster of such vulnerable pockets, the Election Authority/Returning Officer/Election Officer, in consultation with District Election Authority/Superintendent of Police/Commissioner of Police shall arrange for dedicated police teams/squads and locate them at convenient locations in the vicinity, to be pressed into service for action on the day of poll without any loss of time. It should invariably form part of the district security plan.
10. On the day of poll, the Zonal officers shall give special attention to verify whether voters from the vulnerable habitats/communities are turning up for voting or not. In case, they find (it can be gauged from the marked copy of the electoral roll where voters who have voted are ticked) that some section of voters is conspicuously absent, then they should inform the Returning Officer about this immediately. The DEA/RO/EO shall dispatch the dedicated squad specifically meant for this purpose, to ascertain, by a visit to the area so that there is no hindrance – overt or covert – in movement of that section of voters. They should closely monitor the developments and initiate effective interventions. After the closing hours on the poll day, the Zonal officers shall submit a special report, polling station wise, in writing to the Returning Officers indicating as to whether voters from the vulnerable habitats were able to vote or not.
11. At the time of Dispatch of the polling parties at the Dispatch Centers the Returning Officer /Election Officer should brief the Presiding Officer concerned about the vulnerable locations within the Polling Station area, in the electoral roll the Section within the Part should also be marked for proper monitoring. The Presiding Officers shall submit a report indicating abnormally low percentage of voter turnout if any within any section / sections, particularly, with reference to the vulnerable locations of that polling station.
12. During the poll, the Observers and other Senior Officers while visiting the polling station or Municipal Wards shall pay a special attention to this problem and find out whether any undue influence, intimidation/obstruction is being caused.
13. The police patrolling parties should keep track of the Ward- Wise vulnerable locations and keep the control room informed. Wherever necessary police pickets shall be established to ensure free access to all voters to cast their votes without fear.
14. If any complaint is received or information gathered from any sources about obstruction /threat to any voter/voters the same shall be enquired into by the local administration without any delay.

15. The Returning Officer/Election Officer shall take the inputs on mass scale intimidation / threat /obstruction if any into consideration while submitting their report after the poll.
16. The Observers shall give their full attention to this issue and verify at every stage (before poll/on poll day) and submit reports to the Commission from time to time. A special mention shall be made about this in their final report. A part from this, they should make an intelligent reading of the Register of Voters in Form XXXIV in respect of Municipal Corporations and Form XXI in respect of Municipalities and the marked copy of the electoral rolls used in the polling stations at the time of scrutiny of Register of Voters, ordered if any, by the Commission after the poll.
17. The Commission directs that accountability of various police and civil officials for vulnerability mapping and follow up at every stage shall be clearly defined with reference to each polling station/ Urban Local Bodies. Severe disciplinary action will be initiated in case of dereliction of duty on the part of any police/civil officials in this matter.
18. All Polling Stations with such likely incidents shall be identified as critical polling stations.
19. In Addition to this, the Polling Station wise election results with reference to past general elections shall be analyzed. All such Ward-Wise Polling Stations where percentage of Poll recorded in more than 75% and where more than 75% of votes have been recorded in favour of one candidate shall be identified as critical Polling Stations.
20. The Polling Stations that went for re-poll during the previous elections as a result of electoral malpractices and any sort of electoral violence shall also be identified as critical.
21. The DEAs/ROs/EOs shall factor all the above inputs while finally identifying the **Sensitive/hyper-sensitive/ critical** Polling Stations for additional measures. The observers shall be consulted while finalizing the list of such Polling Stations on above instructions.
22. **With reference to the polling stations identified as critical polling stations on account of 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 all the polling stations of that Municipal area. The procedure for deploying such cameras may be followed as was done in the recently held elections to the Assembly/Parliament.
 - (iii) Deployment of Micro-Observers.

- (iv) The Presiding Officer shall be specially briefed to ensure that the EPIC/approved identification document, if any, are properly verified and reflected name or serial number of the said document as specified by the Commission vide Order No. 663/TSEC-ULBs/2017, Dtd: 02.01.2018 in the remarks column in Form XXXIV in respect of Municipal Corporations and Form XXI in respect of Municipalities (Register of Voters).
- (v) Undertake Web casting. The volunteers operating the Web-casting and Micro Observers shall be guided to be extra careful to see that, the cameras capture all the voters moving in the Polling Stations in clear and identifiable form, excepting when they are focusing on any other more important scene.
Specific instructions be given to the volunteers operating the Web-Casting and Micro Observers posted at such Polling Stations.
- (vi) Place responsible Officers in charge of the Web-casting, who shall ensure that the web-cameras are not put-off or directed towards inconsequential events besides ensuring that the feeds are properly stored and preserved for use subsequently.
- (vii) The copy of this Circular be handed over to all Observers.

This shall be brought to the notice of all concerned.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER)

**Sd/-M .Ashok Kumar
SECRETARY**

To

1. The Commissioner & Election Authority, GHMC.
2. The EA & Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration, Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. All the Collectors and DEAs in the State.
4. The Commissioners of Police concerned.
5. All the Superintendents of Police in the State.
6. All the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and Municipalities in the State.
7. All the Deputy Commissioners of GHMC.
8. The Regional Directors-cum-Appellate Commissioners of Municipal Administration, Hyderabad and Warangal.

Copy to:

The Principal Secretary to Govt., MA & UD Dept, Telangana, Secretary, Hyderabad.

//Attested//

N. Jayalalitha
Joint Secretary

14/11/18
80.0.123

FORMAT – I**(to Circular No.955/TSEC-ULBs/2018, Dtd: 14.11.2018)****ORDINARY ELECTIONS TO MEMBER OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION/
MUNICIPALITY****COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON VULNERABLE AREAS**

Name of the District: _____

Name of the Urban Local Body: _____

Name & No. of the Ward : _____

S. No.	Polling Station No. and Name	Names of areas covered by the Polling Station	Description of areas/basthys identified as vulnerable	Names of persons identified as probable source of trouble in those areas (Area-Wise)	Remarks (Type of Threat, e.g. caste domination, tension, criminal gangs etc)
1	2	3	4	5	5

RETURNING OFFICER
Municipal Corporation**ELECTION OFFICER**
Municipality

FORMAT – II

(to Circular No.955/TSEC-ULBs/2018, Dtd: 14.11.2018)

ORDINARY ELECTIONS TO MEMBER OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION/ MUNICIPALITY

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON PERSONS IDENTIFIED FOR CAUSING VULNERABILITYName of the District:

Sl. No.	Name of the Urban Local Body	No. and Name of the Ward identified as critical	Number of persons identified for causing Vulnerability	Details of Action Taken against the persons mentioned in Column 4				No. of Persons in column 4 where no action is taken	Reasons for not taking action as mentioned in column 9
				Bound over	Externment	In Custody	Any other action (with description)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE