

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

3rd Floor, Buddha Bhavan, M G Road, Secunderabad – 500 003.

C I R C U L A R No.16

No.738/SEC-F1/2009

Dated:16-07-2009

Sub:- Elections to GHMC – Photography/Videography of electors and poll proceedings inside the polling stations – Regarding.

Ref:- SEC's Circular No.700/SEC-F1/2005, dated. 24-08-2005.

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The Commission has already issued instructions in the reference cited for making arrangements to record through videography critical events during the process of electioneering, including but not restricted to the period campaign, the day of poll, the receipt and storage of EVMs, counting of votes and declaration of results. However, videography of proceedings inside the polling stations was not permitted as per the instructions issued in the reference cited.

Keeping in view of the directions/suggestions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court contained in its judgement dated January 11, 2005 in Civil Appeal No.9228 of 2003 - (Janak Singh Vs. Das Rai and Others), the ECI issued instructions in videography of proceedings inside the polling station in selective polling stations during elections to State Legislative Assemblies and House of People. The SEC also decided to adopt this practice in selective polling stations to ensure free and fair elections. The State Election Commission directs that the Photography/Videography may now be carried inside the polling stations to photograph electors and cover poll proceedings without compromising the secrecy of voting. No photography/videography shall be allowed by the media persons or by any unauthorized persons inside the polling station to maintain general order and secrecy of vote. Such photography arrangements will be made by the concerned Additional/Deputy Election Authorities in consultation with the EA&C&SO, GHMC.

The steps taken for this purpose during the recently held general elections to House of People & Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, 2009 may be replicated for the GHMC elections.

The photography by these digital cameras will cover those critical polling stations (based on assessment of sensitivity done by the EA&C&SO, GHMC, concerned Collectors and District Magistrates and Police Officers in consultation with Observers). In all polling stations, where digital photography is being done, face of all electors coming to cast vote shall be captured in such sequence as they are entered and appear in Form XXXIV, i.e. Register of Voters. The photographs of voters shall be taken immediately after an entry has been made in Form XXXIV.

The concerned Collectors & Additional Election Authorities and Zonal Commissioners, GHMC and Dy. Election Authorities will make necessary arrangements for deployment of digital cameras to the trained officers selected for this purpose under proper receipt for covering the specified polling station. The officers deputed for this purpose during elections held to APLA/HOP, 2009 may be

selected. These officers will capture the photographs of electors as indicated above during the period of poll and at the end of poll shall issue a certificate that

“I have captured photographs of all electors who voted at polling station number _____ on date _____ and total number of photographs in the camera are _____.”

After completion of poll, the officer who did the photography shall deposit the camera along with the above certificate at a separate counter to be erected for the purpose at collection center. These officers will be given proper duty pass to enable them do photography inside the polling station.

On receipt of such cameras, the concerned Zonal Commissioners & Dy. Election Authorities shall make arrangements for downloading the photographs and their comparison. The results of photo matching will be used by the Returning Officers and Observers while making the recommendations for repoll.

The downloaded data in respect of all polling stations will be kept by the EA&C&SO, GHMC in CDs for later use. The cameras will be cleared after downloading the photographs.

The training of personnel who will be engaged in digital photography inside the polling stations shall be arranged by the EA & C&SO, GHMC.

The Zonal Commissioners and Dy. Election Authorities will make sure that enough batteries are available for operation of cameras in the polling stations located in slum areas.

These instructions shall be brought to the notice of all 2nd Polling Officers, all Presiding Officers, all AROs/ ROs/ Observers/ Candidates and political parties.

**Sd/-B.Venkateswara Rao,
SECRETARY**

To

1. The Election Authority & Commissioner and Spl. Officer, GHMC.
2. The Addl. Election Authority and Collector & District Magistrate, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medak.
3. The Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad & Cyberabad.
4. The Superintendent of Police, Medak.
5. All the Zonal Commissioners and Dy. Election Authorities, GHMC.

Copy to the Secretary to Govt., MA&UD Department, AP., Secretariat, Hyderabad.