

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY SEC ON 10.04.2018  
AT 11.30 AM IN THE OFFICE OF THE SEC WITH THE  
POLITICAL PARTIES ON PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF  
GRAM PANCHAYAT ELECTORAL ROLLS**

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The meeting was chaired by Sri V. Nagi Reddy, IAS (Retd.,) State Election Commissioner, Telangana State Election Commission.

The following officers attended the meeting.

1. Sri M. Ashok Kumar, Secretary, TSEC
2. Sri N. Jayasimha Reddy, Joint Secretary, TSEC
3. Sri Y. Arvind Reddy, Legal Advisor, TSEC
4. Sri S. Vishnu Prasad, Assistant Secretary, TSEC
5. Smt. M. Satyavani, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer from CEO's Office
6. Sri. K. Ravi, Manager from CEO's Office

The following representatives from the Political Parties attended the meeting.

1. Indian National Congress – Sri Marri Shashidhar Reddy
2. CPI(M) – Sri Nandyala Narsimha Reddy
3. CPI – Sri Chada Venkat Reddy
4. TRS – Sri M. Srinivas Reddy
5. TDP – Sri Ravula Chandra Shekar Reddy
6. AIMIM – Sri Syed Amin Jafri
7. YSRCP – Sri Gunreddy Rambhupal Reddy
8. All India Forward Bloc – Sri Banda Surender Reddy
9. Janata Dal (United) – Sri Abdul Wahab
10. Revolutionary Socialist Party – Sri Jupelli Ramulu
11. Ambedkar National Congress – Sri K. Gattaiah
12. Dalita Bahujana Party – Sri Vadi Srinivas Rao

13. Gondwana Ganatantra Party - Sri Sidam Arju
14. Indira Rajiv Congress (Sacrifice for the Nation) - Sri E. Anjalaiah
15. Janapaalana Party - Sri Eda Chennaiah
16. Lok Satta Party - Sri Gangadhar Rao
17. Maa Desam Party - Sri Busim Yedukondalu Venkata Satyanarayana
18. Rastriya Praja Congress (Secular) – Sri P. Devaraju
19. Samajwadi Forward Bloc Party – Sri L. Muralidhar
20. Telangana Communist Party – Sri Sudhamalla Venkataswamy
21. Telangana Lok Satta Party – Sri P. Srinivasa Reddy
22. Telangana Sakajanula Party – Sri V. Bala Goud
23. Telangana Yuvasena Party – Sri Surender
24. Telugu Congress Party – Sri Ch. Varun Kumar Gupta
25. Janasena Party – Sri Arham Yousuf
26. Jana Rakshnana Party – Sri Narsaiah
27. Navodayam Party – Sri Bala

The Secretary welcomed the Officers and representatives of the Political Parties to the meeting which is convened specifically for the purpose of exchange of information on the preparation and publication of the Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls to be used at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary elections to the Gram Panchayats in the State.

In his introductory remarks, the State Election Commissioner emphasized that, under Article 243 K of the Constitution of India the State Election Commission vested with the powers of superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections to Panchayat Raj Bodies and as per the mandatory provisions of the Constitution and Panchayat Raj Act, the State Election Commission has to hold elections well before expiry of their existing term i.e., 1.8.2018.

The Commissioner, TSEC appealed the Political Parties that, since the latest Assembly Electoral rolls are already published and the copies are available with

recognized political Parties and also on CEO's Web Portal, the Political Parties may supply them to their field level functionaries to enable them to verify at village level, identify the genuine eligible voters missing and motivate them to file Form-6 claim before the Concerned Electoral Registration Officers for inclusion of their names in Assembly Electoral Rolls. This also facilitates the Political Parties to identify the duplicate, dead and ineligible voters if any in the electoral roll so that they can file relevant claims before Electoral Registration Officer for necessary action, since the latest Assembly Electoral rolls are adopted in toto for preparation of Gram Panchayat wise electoral rolls.

Later the Commissioner, TSEC has explained the procedure adopted for preparation and Publication of Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls by adopting latest published Assembly Electoral rolls by Power Point Presentation.

- Though every citizen aged 18 or above is eligible to vote at an election but only those whose names are entered in the Electoral Rolls specially published for such election will be allowed to vote at such election. Hence it is very important to ensure registration of the names of all the eligible voters in the Electoral Rolls with in the prescribed time limits.
- The ward wise electoral rolls of the Gram Panchayats are prepared and published in the prescribed manner by adopting latest Assembly Electoral rolls published under RP Act, 1950 with a reference to the qualifying date.
- For the ensuing 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Elections to Gram Panchayats, 2018, the latest Assembly Electoral rolls published w.r.t 1.1.2018 are adopted for preparation and publication of Ward wise electoral rolls of Gram Panchayats. All the names existing in the latest Assembly Electoral Rolls shall be arranged so as to fall in their respective Gram Panchayats by following the territorial limits of the wards.

- The Gram Panchayat electoral rolls are published on a date specified by the State Election Commission by Notification on the notice board of the Gram Panchayat, at three conspicuous places in the concerned Gram Panchayat and also on the notice board of the Mandal Praja Parishad and DPO's office. The Electoral rolls without containing the photos of the voters will also be published in the web portal of the districts and State Election Commission. Copies of the published electoral rolls are supplied to recognized political parties and also registered political parties who are provided with a reserved symbol on free of cost and for others on the payment of the cost of the its copying charges.
  
- After publication of Gram Panchayat electoral rolls on a date specified by the Commission, claims for inclusion or deletion of any name in the Electoral roll shall be made by a proper claim or objection to the Electoral Registration officer of the concerned Legislative Assembly Constituency. Based on the orders by the ERO on such claims and objections, the District Panchayat Officer will carry out in the electoral roll of the Gram Panchayat concerned in related wards upto the date of election notification to be issued by the State Election Commission. The District Panchayat Officer has no power for suo moto inclusions, deletions or corrections in the Gram Panchayat electoral rolls.

After the Power Point Presentation, the representatives of various Political Parties have raised some issues and made following suggestions:

- Sri Ravula Chandra Shekar Reddy, representative of Telugu Desam Party, welcoming the initiative of State Election Commission on holding the Political Parties meeting stated that, in Assembly and Parliament elections, the eligible claims filed and disposed till the date of election, will be

allowed to cast their vote in the election but the State Election Commission is allowing only those inclusions / deletions disposed by ERO till the date of Election Notification and suggested the SEC also to allow the eligible voters included till the date of Election.

Further he stated that, the new Panchayat Raj Act has not come in to force as on to-day, there is no clarity on Gram Panchayats. As per the new Act, the elections are to be held in one to one and half years, the SEC has to oblige the Constitutional mandate by conducting elections to Gram Panchayats well before the expiry of the term of existing body.

He has also suggested that if any name is deleted from the electoral roll, the concerned ERO has to mention the reasons for deletion as per the RP Act and the same is not being followed by many of the ERO's and requested to instruct concerned to follow the Act.

- Sri Chada Venkat Reddy, representative of CPI has stated that, voter awareness should be brought from Mandal level to ensure error free electoral roll and such Political Parties meetings shall take place at District Level and Mandal Level also to spread the message to the grass root level.

He has also suggested that due to creation of Thandas as new Gram Panchayats, there is every possibility for repetition of electors in both the Gram Panchayats and requested to take necessary steps to avoid this. Further he also pointed out the difficulties created by the bunching of all additions to the last ward of the Gram Panchayat without any relation to their actual location.

- Sri Vadi Srinivas Rao, representative of Dalit Bahujan Party has requested to clarify on the time allowed from electoral roll publication to election notification.

- Sri Busim Yedukondalu Venkata Satyanarayana, the representative of Maa Desam Party and Sri P. Devaraju representative of Rastriya Praja Congress (Secular) raised about the process of linking of Aadhar card number to voter ID.
- Sri Nandyala Narsimha Reddy, representative of CPI (M) Party has suggested that perfect electoral rolls will avoid poll clashes and lead for peaceful elections. During their survey earlier, it is observed that the voters enrolled in Nalgonda are also enrolled in Patancheru – Constituency of Erstwhile Medak District.

Due to lack of knowledge on jurisdiction of Nalgonda Municipality, some eligible voters were neither included in Nalgonda Municipality nor in relevant Gram Panchayat by concerned officials.

Further the dead, double voters to be deleted from the electoral roll. Such initiatives will help for purification and preparation of perfect electoral roll which is essential for peaceful conduct of elections.

- Sri P. Devaraju, representative of Rastriya Praja Congress (Secular) has requested to clarify whether the ensuing Gram Panchayat elections are going to be held on EVMs (or) on using traditional ballot boxes.
- Sri Syed Amin Jafri, representative of AIMIM Party has expressed that the status of new Panchayat Raj Act is not known so far as no notification is issued so far by the Government; list of thandas converted to Gram Panchayats, big Gram Panchayats are made in to Municipal bodies some surrounding Gram Panchayats are merged in existing Municipalities. Details of actual Gram Panchayats, their delimitation, reservations are inter-linked and there is no clarity on these issues and requested the SEC to take all these issues in to consideration before publication of Gram Panchayat wise electoral rolls.

- Sri Marri Shashidhar Reddy, representative of Indian National Congress has expressed doubt whether the ensuing elections will be conducted on existing Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (or) new 2018 Act which is yet to get the Governor's assent. As per new Section 11(2) on preparation and publication of electoral roll, clarity is required.

Further he emphasized on preparation and publication of proper electoral roll quoting the example of Danthapally Gram Panchayat casual elections to Sarpanch post held in 2017, where nearly 700 eligible voters are deprived their right and see that such things will not repeat again. Disciplinary action to be taken against the officials who involve in such activities so that other will be alert while preparing electoral rolls.

He further requested the SEC to conduct free and fair elections as per the powers vested with SEC under Article 243 (K) of the Constitution of India and to protect the Democracy.

He has also requested to see that all the claims filed before EROs of Assembly Constituencies are disposed off in stipulated time and the District Collectors to be made responsible for this as District Election Authorities.

- Sri Gangadhar Rao, representative of Lok Satta Party has requested to know
  - (i) The mechanism followed in identifying the mistakes in electoral rolls.
  - (ii) Whether there would be sufficient time available between Electoral Roll publication and Election notification to enable rectification of errors in the Rolls.
  - (iii) If more than 10% of the mistakes are found in electoral rolls, what action is taken by SEC against the Concerned Officials involved.

- (iv) Whether elections will be postponed in those Gram Panchayats, where major irregularities are noticed in preparation of electoral rolls.

Further suggested that, it is important to conduct elections with perfect electoral rolls instead of timely conducting elections without perfection in electoral rolls.

- Sri M. Srinivas Reddy, representative of Telangana Rashtra Samithi Party has requested to clarify whether the claims for inclusion / deletion are allowed till the election notification is issued by the TSEC. Further suggested that double and dead voters can be prevented from voting by the officials duly identifying such cases. He has also suggested the SEC to conduct one more such meeting before issue of notification for publication of electoral rolls.

- Sri P. Srinivasa Reddy, representative of Telangana Lok Satta Party has stated that as Stake-holders in Election process a copy of present bill introduced for New Panchayat Raj Act shall be communicated to them so that they can study it and propose some suggestions to the Act.

He further expressed his concern on new bill where the powers of the TSEC, which is an autonomous body under Constitution of India, are curtailed by inserting a Section stating that before issue of every notification for conduct of elections to local bodies by SEC, the SEC has to obtain the concurrence of the State Government, which is a dangerous Section and advised the SEC to challenge this in Supreme Court of India to save the democracy in the State.

- Sri Bala, representative of Navodayam Party has requested to clarify how the Residency and Nativity of the elector are classified and on what basis the electoral roll is prepared. He also expressed concern on present



system followed on transportation of elector from one place to other where the proper procedure is not followed.

- Sri Ch. Varun Kumar Gupta, representative of Telugu Congress Party highlighted the difficulties being faced by people to approach correct District and Mandal level especially after the formation of new Districts and Mandals in the State. He emphasized the need to clearly earmark and publicise the identity and address of each of the EROs of the State.

Replying to the queries raised by the various Political Parties, the Commissioner, TSEC has clarified that:

- The SEC will ensure adequate time between the publication of Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls and the date of Election notification to enable requisite additions, deletions and changes in Assembly Constituency Electoral Rolls and their consequent incorporation in the Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls.
- There is no much difference in "Preparation and publication of electoral roll" process between the existing Act and New Act.
- Notification is to be issued by the Government indicating the date of commencement of the New Act.
- The TSEC has developed a new application software under the name Te-poll whereby the voters from Assembly Constituency can be transported to concerned Gram Panchayats efficiently, accurately and very quickly. All precautions will be taken to publish error free electoral-roll.
- The Government have amended the rules for adding the inclusions in the concerned ward of the Gram Panchayat instead of adding them all to the last ward as was in practice earlier.

- SEC will request the District Collectors to hold District level and Mandal level Political Parties meetings in similar manner to pass the message up to the grass root level.
- Since the matter is sub-judice in Supreme Court of India, presently there is no idea to link Aadhar and voters' list.
- Presently there is no provision for separate draft and final publication of the Gram Panchayat wise electoral rolls and the Commission will look in to the matter.
- The notification for publication of Gram Panchayat wise Electoral rolls will be issued only after getting clarity on No. and Names of the Gram Panchayats in the State.
- Regarding the claims filed for inclusion / deletion of names in Assembly Electoral rolls till issue of Election notification by SEC, the same will be pursued and the EROs through the District Collectors / District Election Officers will be made responsible for timely disposal of these claims.
- The SEC desires to have error free electoral rolls and the responsibility lies with District Panchayat Officers in case of Gram Panchayat Electoral rolls and Electoral Registration Officer concerned in case of Assembly Constituency Electoral rolls.
- People who are ordinarily resident in a place will be considered for inclusion in the Assembly Constituency Electoral Rolls and hence it is residence which is the criteria for inclusion in Electoral Rolls.
- The District Collector / DEO will authorize the Panchayat Secretary to be the official to prepare the draft Electoral Roll under the supervision of the E.O. (PR&RD), MPDO, DLPO. Ultimately it is the District Panchayat Officer

who is responsible for preparation of correct Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls in the district.

- The Dy. Chief Electoral Officer from C.E.O's Office has explained the procedure involved in filing of claims and their disposal by the concerned Electoral Registration Officers.
- Concluding the meeting the Secretary, TSEC thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution and requested their support for peaceful and timely conduct of 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats.

  
**Secretary**  
**TSEC**

To  
All concerned.

