

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA
S.C.O. NO.16-17, SECTOR-20 D, CHANDIGARH.

ORDER

7.4 The Commission is in the process of issuing a number of additional instructions for fortifying the existing orders for ensuring free and fair poll during the Panchayat Bye Elections proposed to be held in August, 1996 and future elections.

2. With a view to preserve the purity of election process and rendering the election truly reflective of the choice of people, the State Election Commission has now decided that in order to enable the Commission to have a faithful and accurate record of possible violations of the standing instructions of the Commission and to assess the impact of its corrective measures the District Election Officers (Panchayat) in respect of their District as and when directed by the State Election Commission for a particular Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad shall make arrangements to record through videography critical events during the process of electroneering, including but not restricted to the period of electroneering the day of poll, the transport and receipt of polling materials, counting of votes and the declaration of result in an independent intelligent and purposeful manner.

3. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall hire local, private and professional videographers who do not have any political leanings or affiliations and who have not been hired at the same time by any political party or candidate for this purpose.

4. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) shall, while programming the itinerary of the video means take into account, the number of electors, the size of the Gram Panchayat/Panchayat Samiti/Zila Parishad, the number of sensitive polling stations, previous history of booth capturing and other malpractices, the general law and order situation, the likelihood of commission of corrupt practices and electoral offences and other related factors. The agencies employed shall be given proper guidance as to the likely trouble spots and type of malpractices and irregularities so as to make it a meaningful exercise.

5. Camera teams engaged for videography by the District Election Officer (Panchayat) should not work without the personal supervision and guidance of a senior election related officer. The Observers and Election Expenditure Observers of the Commission should be closely associated in the matter so that any significant which is observed by them may also be video taped as far as practicable.

6. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) should decide the number of cameras needed.

7. The Video films thus prepared shall be viewed immediately by the District Election Officer (Panchayat) for identifying violations for infractions of the directions of the Commission committed, if any. In cases where the District Election Officer(Panchayat) is himself competent, immediate corrective action including disciplinary action against all those found guilty shall be taken and the Commission informed of the same.

8. In case of serious infringements which the District Election Officer (Panchayat) in his judgement, decides to report to the Commission the concerned video tape will be forwarded to the Commission by the quickest means possible. The tapes will be carefully indexed and accompanied by a brief explanatory note of the infringement towards which the attention of the Commission is proposed to be invited. The explanatory note shall compulsorily mention the broad details of the violations, the persons responsible for the same and the action recommended.

9. In cases in which the clearance for counting and clearance for the declaration of the results is specifically directed to be obtained from the Commission the request of the District Election Officer (Panchayat) for obtaining the same must include a categorical statement to the effect that all infringements observed in the videographed events have been appropriately and completely disposed of.

10. A copy of this order in English/Hindi language(s) shall be made available to the local units of all recognised National and Haryana State Political parties, immediately, and to each candidate, or the agent authorised by him, at the time of his nomination (repeat nomination and not scrutiny of nominations) under acknowledgement.

11. Receipt of this order shall be acknowledged forthwith.

Sd/
(J.K.Duggal)
State Election Commissioner,
Haryana.

Dated, Chandigarh the 10th June 1996

Copy to :-

1. The Financial Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Haryana, Development and Panchayats Department.
2. The Commissioners, Ambala, Hisar, Gurgaon and Rohtak Divisions.
3. Director, Development and Panchayats, Haryana, Chandigarh.
4. All the Deputy Commissioners in Haryana.
5. All the Political Parties in the State.