

By Speed Post/Email

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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निर्वाचन सदन

अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001

Nirvachan Sadan

Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.576/14/2024/EPS

Dated: 16th March, 2024

To

1. The Chief Secretary of
Odisha
2. The Chief Electoral Officer of
Odisha

**Subject: General Election to Legislative Assembly of Odisha, 2024
- PHASE WISE DRY DAY - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to inform that the Commission has announced General Election to Legislative Assembly of Odisha vide its Press Note No.ECI/PN/23/2024 dated 16.03.2024 available on the Commission's website under URL <https://elections24.eci.gov.in/docs/press-note-no-23.pdf>.

2. In this regard, your attention is invited to Section 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which provides that no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquor or other substances of like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other place, public or private, within a polling area during the period of forty-eight hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of poll for any election in the polling area.

3. In view of the statutory provision as above, '**Dry day**' shall be declared and notified under the relevant State laws as is appropriate during 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of poll as indicated in the Commission's notification with respect to polling day for an election in that polling area where General Election to Legislative Assembly is being held. This will include the date of re-poll, if any.

4. The Commission further directs that the **date on which counting of votes is to be taken up i.e. 04.06.2024(Tuesday), shall also be declared 'Dry Day'** under the relevant State laws.

5. No liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling or serving liquor shall be permitted to sell/serve liquor to anyone whosoever, on the aforesaid days.

6. Non-proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants etc. and hotels functioning under different categories of licenses for possession and supply of liquor, shall not be permitted to serve liquor on these days.

7. The storage of liquor by individuals shall be curtailed during the above period and the restrictions provided in the excise law on the storage of liquor in unlicensed premises shall be vigorously enforced.

8. The Commission directs that the State Government shall strictly implement the above measures. They are required to issue detailed and comprehensive instructions to all concerned authorities to take appropriate and legally effective measures to implement the above prohibitions and assist the election authorities in peaceful and smooth conduct of free and fair poll.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully



(BREJESH KUMAR)
UNDER SECRETARY