

By E-mail/Speed Post

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN ASHOKA ROAD NEW DELHI-110001

No. 437/TEL-HP/SOU3/2024

Dated: 7th May, 2024

To

Chief Electoral Officer
Telangana
Hyderabad

Subject: General Election to the Lok Sabha, Telangana, 2024 - Complaint related to Rythu Bandhu (now "Rythu Bharosa") and Disbursement of Rythu Bandhu Assistance after date of poll (13.05.2024) in Telangana - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter no. 4854/Elecs.A/A1/2024 dated 06.05.2024 on the complaint dated 06.05.2024 of Sh. N Venukumar on the subject cited above and invite your kind attention to the Commission's direction dated 5th October, 2018 wherein the Commission had put forth conditions while approving release of disbursement under the Rythu Bandhu scheme during General Election to Legislative Assembly of Telangana, 2018: -

- (i) No new beneficiaries should be added to list of eligible beneficiaries.
- (ii) No publicity should be made in this regard.
- (iii) No public function should be organised for disbursement of kits/items in kind.
- (iv) No political functionary will be involved in the process of disbursement and
- (v) As far as possible direct electronic transfer of cash component should be made through the account of the beneficiary and there should be no distribution of cheques in this regard.

2. It has been noted that Rabi instalment of Rythu Bandhu assistance were disbursed by the State of Telangana during October - January in the last five years and there is neither any fix date (s) for disbursement prescribed in the scheme, nor any special significance of disbursement in the month of May, 2024 for Rabi season of 2023.

3. The Commission vide letter dated 24th November, 2023 had given 'no objection' for disbursement of Rythu Bandhu assistance in the State of Telangana with conditions that the Govt. of Telangana will follow the instructions contained in the



Commission's direction vide its letter dated 5th October, 2018 and no DBT assistance will be affected during silence period and poll day in the State. Above said 'no objection' was granted, based on the premise that said scheme is an ongoing scheme and Rabi instalments were disbursed during October - January in the past five years. However, the Commission vide its letter dated 27.11.2023 had withdrawn above permission for disbursement of the Rythu Bandhu assistance in the context of violation of MCC provisions by Sh. T. Harish Rao, the then Finance Minister, Govt. of Telangana during GE to Legislative Assembly of Telangana in year 2023.

4. Though, Rythu Bandhu is an ongoing scheme and the disbursement of Rabi season 2023 must have been completed by January 2024 according to past precedence. Further, according to complaint received from Sh. N. Venukumar and report thereupon received from the Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana, the Commission found that Sh. Revanth Reddy, Hon'ble CM of Telangana has violated the MCC conditions laid down in this regard for ongoing scheme by publicly speaking about ensuing disbursement under Rythu Bharosa (erstwhile Rythu Bandhu) scheme on or before 9th May, 2024 which has also been reported in media.

5. In the above premise and clear violation of Model Code of Conduct by Sh. Revanth Reddy, President, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Star Campaigner and Chief Minister, the Commission has directed that disbursement of balance instalment under the Rythu Bharosa (erstwhile Rythu Bandhu) scheme for Rabi season of 2023 will be affected only after completion of poll in the State of Telangana on 13.05.2024. The decision of the Commission shall be communicated to the Govt. of Telangana immediately and compliance report be submitted to the Commission by **5:00 PM on 7th May, 2024.**

Yours faithfully,



(Sanjay Kumar)
Under Secretary