

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 Secretaries of
All States and UTs
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and UTs

Subject: General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye-elections to ACs of various States – 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 Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye-elections to ACs of various States vide its Press Notes No.ECI/PN/23/2024 and No.ECI/PN/24/2024 respectively 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/UT laws as is appropriate during 48 hours, **ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of poll in every phase as indicated in the Commission's notification** with respect to polling day for an election in that polling area where General Elections to Lok Sabha and Bye-elections to Legislative Assemblies are 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, shall also be declared 'Dry Day'** under the relevant laws in all the States and UTs.
5. No liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling or serving liquor shall be permitted to sell/serve liquor to anyone whatsoever, 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/UT Government shall strictly implement the above measures in the **phase wise election schedules as mentioned in the Commission's Notification(s)** for the State/UT. Detailed and comprehensive instructions shall be issued 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