



LOK SATTA

People Power

Voter Registration

27th October, 2004, ASCI

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“At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper.....”

- Churchill

Verification of Electoral Rolls

How to Access Voters' Lists?

- Electoral rolls are available to all citizens
 - MROs offices
 - Municipal offices in twin cities
- They can be purchased for a price
 - 0 – 95ps / page
 - 1.35ps / a sheet of 2 pages

Head of account

- Districts : 0070 – 02 – 101
- Hyderabad: 0033 – 03 – 101

How to Add or Delete Names

- Simple applications:
 - Form 6 : Addition
 - Form 7 : Objection to a name & deletion
 - Form 8B : Deletion
 - Form 8 : Corrections
 - Form 8A : Change of polling booth
- Form 6 – Voter should apply
- Form 7 & 8B – Any other voter can apply

Additions / Deletions / Changes

- Application in duplicate to MRO
(Municipal Officials in Hyderabad)
- Receipt given to applicant – No fee
- Application published by MRO.
(on Notice Board)
- 7 days notice for objections, if any
- Summary enquiry & decision
- Decision communicated to applicant

Polling Irregularities

Serious flaws in voter rolls

Sample survey ▶ 40% errors in urban areas

State-wide survey ▶ 15% errors in villages

▶ > 40% errors in towns

21.7% possible fraudulent voting in cities

Verification of Voters' Lists in Andhra Pradesh Survey of Rural Polling Stations

Details of electoral rolls verified			Deletions Reqd (Errors of Commission)				Additions Reqd (Errors of Omission)				Variation		
District	No. of Polling Stns.	No. of Voters	Shifting	Death	Other	Total	% of voters	Attained of 18 years of Age	By shifting	Total	% of voters	Total	% of voters
EG	4	1289	166	36		202	15.7	31	50	81	6.3	283	22.0
W.G	2	2086	37	52		89	4.3	24	23	47	2.3	136	6.5
Krishna	1	416	27	13	1	41	9.9	12	3	15	3.6	56	13.5
Prakasam	2	1297	43	38	2	83	6.4	34	12	46	3.5	129	9.9
Nellore	4	3084	87	79	15	181	5.9	60	100	160	5.2	341	11.1
Chittoor	2	1762	143	37	90	270	15.3	47	110	157	8.9	427	24.2
Kumool	4	4648	488	71	1	560	12.0	82	128	210	4.5	770	16.6
Warangal	2	1399	51	15	4	70	5.0	7	12	19	1.4	89	6.4
Mbnagar	1	344	32	11		43	12.5	35	12	47	13.7	90	26.2
Karimnagar	5	3956	549	100	59	708	17.9	78	142	220	5.6	928	23.5
Khammam	2	2016	11	36	12	59	2.9	37	0	37	1.8	96	4.8
Rural Total	29	22297	1634	488	184	2306	10.34	447	592	1039	4.7	3345	15.10

**Verification of Voters' Lists in Andhra Pradesh
Survey of Urban Polling Stations**

Details of electoral rolls verified			Deletions Reqd (Errors of Commission)				Additions Reqd (Errors of Omission)				Variation		
District	No. of Polling Stns	No. of Voters	Shifting	Death	Other	Total	% of voters	Attained 18 years of Age	By shifting	Total	% of voters	Total	% of voters
Vizag	3	1298	355	22	17	394	30.4	82	413	495	38.1	889	68.5
E.Godavari	3	419	78	14	0	92	22.0	39	85	124	29.6	216	51.6
W.Godavari	2	1491	121	12		133	8.9	46	179	225	15.1	358	24.0
Krishna	3	1919	690	35	0	725	37.8	53	500	553	28.8	1278	66.6
Kurnool	3	1796	419	43	28	490	27.3	62	90	152	8.5	642	35.7
Nalgonda	1	797	273	5	2	280	35.1	34	125	159	19.9	439	55.1
Warangal	2	1863	320	28	30	378	20.3	43	74	117	6.3	495	26.6
Guntur	5	4060	1039	83	92	1214	29.9	209	604	813	20.0	2027	49.9
Hyderabad	5	4459	923	31	42	996	22.3	85	691	776	17.4	1772	39.7
Urban Total	27	18102	4218	273	211	4702	26.0	653	2761	3414	18.9	8116	44.8
Rural+Urban	56	40399	5852	761	395	7008	17.3	1100	3353	4453	11.0	11461	28.4

**Post-Polling Survey of Select Polling Station Areas
(1999 Assembly and Parliamentary Polls, Hyderabad, AP)**

Assembly Constituency Polling Booth No.,	No.of / voters	No.of votes polled	No.who reported that they actually 'voted'	No. not voted or doubtful cases				Percentage of doubtful and 'not voted' votes
				Residing in the area but not voted	Left the area but not residing the city	Left the city within country etc.	/ Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
207/173	1143	625	483	5	91	46	142	22.7
207/176	956	459	377	15	41	26	82	17.9
209/93	725	428	306	20	95	7	122	28.5
209/75	989	495	380	42	72	1	115	23.2
210/426	893	476	399	22	49	6	77	16.2
Total	4706	2483	1945	104	348	86	538	21.7

Election Watch – 2004 – Pre-Poll Survey

Location	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	Total No. of Voters	Additions	Deletions	Total No. of Additions & Deletions	
						No.	As % of total Voters
RURAL	37	71	70848	1634 (2.3)	2086 (2.94)	3720	5.25
URBAN	22	41	41042	2205 (5.37)	2782 (6.77)	4987	12.15
TOTAL:	59	112	1,11,890	3839 (3.43)	4868(4.35)	8707	7.78

Election Watch 2004 – Post-Post Poll Survey

Location	No. of Constituencies	No. of polling Stations	Votes Polled	Bogus Votes	
				No.	As % of votes polled
RURAL	16	29	18069	169	0.9
URBAN	9	16	8894	168	1.9
TOTAL:	25	45	26963	337	1.2

Simple Solutions

Voter Registration

Post Office as Nodal Agency

Voter Lists on Display

Voter Lists for Purchase

Statutory forms

Receipt of Application

Acknowledgement

Action taken intimation

Polling Fraud

Voter identity card

Repoll if tendered votes exceed 1%

Wide publicity to utilise tendered vote

Why Post Office

- All over the world convergence of services has become the norm
- US, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hong Kong, the post office is effectively used for voter registration.
- We have about 250,000 post offices all over India,
- Post office – Competence, integrity and citizen-friendly approach
- Post office is approached by ordinary citizens without fear or anxiety

Post Office as Nodal Agency – Recent Developments

- EC directive provides for display of voter rolls in Post Offices
- In-charge of delivery post office appointed as designated officer
- He / She will *receive* forms pertaining to:
 - Forms for inclusion, deletion, correction of particulars
- Forms from individuals applying for themselves as well as other members of the family will be accepted

Post Office as Nodal Agency – Recent Developments

- Applications in bulk will not be accepted
- District Election Officer will collect verified forms from post offices once in a week
- Online applications – will be forwarded to beat postman for verification
- Forms submitted in post offices – no automatic inclusions
 - Checking report of postman legitimate ground for inclusion

What do we Need

- A permanent mechanism in post offices
- Display and sale of rolls, availability of form, verification, and registration on request
- Assist EC in revision of electoral rolls on a permanent basis
- A mass communication campaign to promote public awareness

Revenue Possibilities

- Sale of voters list for each polling station
- Sale of slips containing – serial number, name, address, and other details of voters
 - standard price: Rs 1 for every slip
 - commission for postal employees: Rs 0.50 ps for every slip.
 - Expected benefit for postal department: Rs 50-100 crores per annum
- Sale of forms pertaining to:
 - Inclusion, deletion, correction of particulars, etc., (forms 6, 7, 8, 8A and 8B)
 - Price of forms: Rs.1 for 2 copies
 - The bulk printing cost will not exceed 10ps

Revenue Possibilities

- Post office can act as the authority for:
 - Addition, deletion, or correction of names
 - Fee: Rs. 2 per case
- Assist political parties in distribution of voter slips – for a fee / advertising possibilities
- Revision of electoral rolls – Post office can collect Rs 1 for every name verified

“The punishment suffered by the wise who refuse to take part in the government, is to live under the government of bad men”

- Plato