P.R. NO: 264

Public (Elections-III) Department

PRESS RELEASE

Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in the 48 hours period before the close of the poll, the campaign will come to an end, that is by 5.00 p.m. of 25.3.2010 for the Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 83.Pennagaram Assembly Constituency. It is necessary to ensure that the voters are able to exercise their right of franchise in a free manner to elect the person who can represent them in the Legislature. As the presence of political functionaries / party workers / procession functionaries / campaign functionaries, etc. who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency, may undermine the atmosphere for free and fair poli, the Election Commission of India has directed that all such functionaries be moved out of the constituency immediately from 5.00 P.M. on 25.3.2010 and the constituency sealed off, so that no outside element can enter into it and try to create an ambience that goes contrary to that which is required to conduct free and fair elections.

2. This will also include all those political functionaries who have been provided security by the State. The relevant para from the instruction of the Election Commission of India is extracted below:-

"All District Election Officers and Superintendents of Police (Commissioners of Police) shall ensure that all those political functionaries who have been provided security by the State shall not be allowed to remain present in the constituency in which they are not electors after the period of campaigning is over. They shall also restrict the movements of such political functionaries in the constituency in which they are bonafide electors on the day of poll before and after they cast their votes". Quarter (6, Quarter)

> Brilg, wåså Gorenius and Chief Electoral Officer, 23/03/10 1/1 Tamil Nadu