



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Taxes Department - General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024 - Declaration of 'Dry Day' in the State - Orders issued.

TAXES (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.301/2024/TAXES Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 25-03-2024

Read 1 Letter No.576/14/2024/EPS dated 16.03.2024 from the Election Commission of India, New Delhi.

2 Letter No.EL6/4/2024-ELEC(4) dated 18.03.2024 from the Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala.

ORDER

The Election Commission of India, as per the letter read as 1st paper above has informed that General Election to Lok Sabha, 2024 and Bye-elections to AC's of various States was announced vide its Press Notes No.ECI/PN/23/2024 and No.ECI/PN/24/2024 respectively dated 16.03.2024.

2. Section 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 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, the Election Commission of India has directed all the States and UT's to declare **Dry day** as is appropriate during 48 hours, ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of poll in every phase including the date of re-poll, if any.

4. As directed by the Election Commission of India, Government hereby order that during 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for the conclusion of poll with respect to polling day in the State ie 26.04.2024, will be 'dry day' for all the liquor shops throughout the State (This will

include the date of re-poll, if any). It is also ordered that the counting day on 04.06.2024 will also be a 'dry day'.

5. During the 'Dry Days', no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances of a like nature shall be sold, given or distributed at a hotel, eating house, tavern, shop or any other public or private place within a polling area. No liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other establishments selling/serving liquor, shall be permitted to sell/serve liquor to anyone whosoever, on the aforesaid days. Non-proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants etc. and hotels run by anyone, even if they are issued different categories of licenses for possession and supply of liquor, shall not be permitted to serve liquor on these days. 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. Steps shall also be taken to prohibit sale of liquor in adjoining areas of the constituencies concerned so that there is no chance of clandestine movement of liquor from those areas, even if there are no restrictions in effect in those areas. The storage of liquor by individuals is also prohibited.

6. The Excise Commissioner shall issue necessary instructions to the officials concerned to rigorously take necessary precautionary measures, to detect and prevent storage and sale of liquor by unlicensed persons and in unlicensed premises during the above days.

(By order of the Governor)
DR A JAYATHILAK I A S
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

- 1.The Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001.
- 2.The Chief Electoral Officer, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.(with covering letter)
- 3.The Excise Commissioner, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 4.The State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 5.The Managing Director, Kerala State Beverages Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 6.All District Collectors.

- 7.All Deputy Excise Commissioners.
- 8.The Information and Public Relations Department (Web & New Media), Thiruvananthapuram.
9. Stock File/Office Copy.(File No A2/75/2024-Taxes)

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer