



Forum for Good Governance

Regd.No.653/2009

Hyderabad
16th May, 2024

L. No. FGG/CEO/REP/ 71 /2024

To
The Chief Electoral Officer
Telangana State
Hyderabad

Sir,

Sub: Telangana State – Elections held for State Assembly during November 2023 – Uncontrolled expenditure by Government to conduct elections – Request to audit the expenditure by A.G. – Reg.

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Election Commission of India notified the expenditure limit of Rs. 40 lakhs per candidate contesting elections to legislative Assembly elections held in November 2023. Special expenditure observers were appointed to each constituency to watch and audit of expenditure of the candidates. The Commission has fixed the rates for food items etc. which the candidates have to follow while calculating expenditure.

As per sec. 78 of Representation of People Act, "Every contesting candidate shall within 30 days from the date of election lodge with the district election officer on account of his election expenses". Accordingly, the candidates have filed their accounts which were put on website of Election Commission and are in public domain. Forum for Good Governance analyzed the expenditure statements of candidates and found that the total amount spent by them for elections is anything from Rs.20 lakhs to 35 lakhs only. Officially no candidate has spent more than Rs.40 lakhs the ceiling fixed by Commission, though the actual position is something different.

Forum for Good Governance received some complaints that uncontrolled expenditure is incurred by officials entrusted with election work. To know the facts, we have filed R.T.I. applications with all the district collectors to furnish the constituency wise expenses incurred for conduct of Assembly elections held in November 2023. Many of the collectors did not respond to our applications. Few collectors forwarded our request to


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R.D.O.s who inturn sent it to M.R.O.s So far, we have not received any information from M.R.O.s (Ann I). Finally, we requested the Prl. Secretary Finance to provide information regarding budget release for conduct of Assembly elections. As per Prl. Secretary Finance an amount of Rs. 701.11 crores is the budget release to conduct elections to 119 Assembly seats in Telangana which work out to 5.9 crores per constituency (Ann II).

While the contesting candidates spent on an average of Rs. 30 lakhs per Assembly the Election Commission spent Rs. 5.9 crores on each Assembly constituency to conduct elections.

As the election expenditure is not audited we have a reason to believe that wasteful expenditure is being incurred by officials conducting elections. The Chief Electoral Officer Telangana is requested to kindly get the election accounts audited and put in public domain as is being done in case of contesting candidates.

Yours Sincerely


M. Padmanabha Reddy
President
Forum for Good Governance

Encl : Annexures I & II

Copy to Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India, New Delhi

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4/3/24



Forum for Good Governance

Regd.No.653/2009

Hyderabad
1st March, 2024

L. No. FGG/DC/RTI/ 34 /2024

To
The Public Information Officer
O/o District Collector
Medak District

Sir,

Sub : R.T.I. Act – Request for information – Reg.
4 MAR 2024

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Kindly provide the following information regarding expenditure incurred by District administration for conducting Assembly elections constituency wise.

S. No.	Name of the Assembly Constituency and Number	Budget allotted	Amount spent	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.				
33.				

I am herewith enclosing Indian Postal Order for Rs.10/-. Kindly provide me the requested information at an early date.

Yours Sincerely

M. Padmanabha Reddy
President

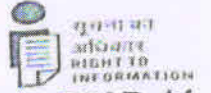
Encl : Indian Postal Order for Rs.10/-, No. 62 F 052336

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16/03/2024

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dt. 16/3/24 Time 12



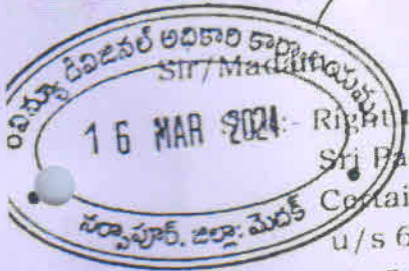
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**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MEDAK DISTRICT**

Date: 06.03.2024.

Lr. No. B4/729/2024

To,
The Public Information Officer,
O/o the Revenue Divisional Officer,
Medak & Narsapur.



Ref:- A/o Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o Hyderabad, Dt: 04.03.2024.

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Inviting kind attention in the reference cited, wherein the applicant Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o Hyderabad has filed an RTI petition under RTI Act-2005 and want to seek information regarding expenditure incurred by District Administration for Conducting Assembly Elections Constitute wise in tabular form.

6/3/24

Sl.No	Name of the Assembly Constituency and Number	Budget Allotted	Amount Spent	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

Therefore, the copy of original RTI application is transferred herewith under section 6(3) of RTI Act -2005 and request to provide the information directly to the applicant under intimation to this office.

Encl: - (As above)

Yours faithfully,

Public Information Officer/
Administrative Officer,
Collectorate, Medak

Copy to Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o H.No. 6-1-69, Flat 204, GKR Mansion, Lakdikapool, Saifabad, Hyderabad, 500004, with a request to make further correspondence with the Said PIO for necessary information in the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
NARSAPUR DIVISION, MEDAK DISTRICT

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Lr. No. B/RTI/687/2024

Date: 23.03.2024

To,
The Public Information Officer,
O/o the Tahsildar,
Narsapur Mandal.

Sir,

Sub:- Right to Information Act- 2005- Medak District- Application of Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o Hyderabad - Requested to furnish certain information under RTI Act- Original petition transferred u/s 6(3) of RTI Act- Reg.

Ref:- The Public Information Officer, District Collectorate, Medak, Lr. No. B4/729/2024, Dt: 06.03.2024.

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Inviting kind attention to the reference and subject cited, wherein the Public Information Officer, District Collectorate, Medak has transferred the petition of Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o Hyderabad u/s 6(3) of RTI Act- 2005 and requested to provide the information regarding expenditure incurred by District Administration for conducting Assembly Elections Constituency wise in tabular form.

Sl. No	Name of the Assembly Constituency and Number	Budget Allotted	Amount Spent	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

Therefore, the copy of RTI application is enclosed and transferred under section 6(3) of RTI Act- 2005 and request to provide the information directly to the applicant under intimation to this office.

Encl: (as above)

Yours faithfully

Public Information Officer,
Divisional Administrative Officer,
Narsapur Division.

Copy to Sri Padmanabha Reddy R/o H. No. 6-1-69, Flat 204, GKR Mansion, Lakdikapool, Saifabad, Hyderabad, 500004.

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RTI Act, 2005
Most Urgent

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FINANCE (EBS.I) DEPARTMENT

Letter.No.1533/116/EBS.I/2024

Dated.02.05.2024

From:
The Public Information Officer,
The Finance (EBS.I) Dept.,
Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad.

To,
M.Padmananbha Reddy,
Forum for Good Governance,
H.No.6-1-69, Flat 204,
GKR Mansion,
Lakdikapool, Saifabad
Hyderabad – 500004.

Sub: - RTI Act, 2005 – Furnishing of information – Regarding.
Ref: - M.Padmánanbha Reddy, President, Forum for Good Governance,
H.No.6-1-69, Flat 204, GKR Mansion, Lakdikapool, Saifabad,
Hyderabad Regarding.

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With reference to your application under RTI Act, 2005, I am to inform you that: **Point no.1:** Budget sanctioned for conducting State Assembly Elections (November 2023 Elections) is 701.11 Crores.

Point No.2: The information on actual amount spent for conducting State Assembly elections pertains to Chief Electoral officer, Telangana. Hence, your application has been transferred to Assistant Secretary & SPIO CEO, Telangana under section 6(3) of RTI Act 2005, with a request to examine the matter and furnish information directly to you under RTI Act 2005.

2. I therefore, request you to make further correspondence regarding **Point No.2** with the Assistant Secretary & SPIO CEO, Telangana.

Yours faithfully



Assistant Secretary to Government & SPIO.

FGG Demands Audit Of Election Expenditure ₹701cr spent on Nov 2023 assembly polls: RTI reply

U.Sudhakarreddy
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: An amount of ₹701 crore was released from the budget to conduct elections to 119 assembly seats in Nov 2023, which works out to ₹5.9cr per constituency, according to an RTI reply from Telangana principal secretary of finance department.

Forum for Good Governance, which filed the RTI application, said that it had received several complaints on wasteful expenditure for the conduct of elections and demanded an audit.

“While the contesting candidates spent ₹30 lakh, on an average, the Election Commission spent ₹5.9cr on each constituency to conduct the elections. As the election expenditure is not audited, we have a reason to believe that wasteful expenditure is being incurred by officials while conducting the elections,” said Padmanabha Reddy, FGG secretary.

FGG demanded that Telangana chief electoral officer get the election accounts audited and place it in public

STATE ELECTION: BUDGET BUNGL

● Amount released for conducting elections:
₹701 crore

● Average expenditure per constituency:
₹5.9 crore

● Average spending of contesting candidates:
₹30 lakh



● ECI fixed expenditure limit per candidate:
₹40 lakh

domain, as being done in case of contesting candidates.

“EC had notified the expenditure limit at ₹40 lakh per candidate contesting the assembly elections. Special expenditure observers were appointed to each constituency to watch and do an audit of expenditure of the candidates. The EC even fixed the rates for food items, etc., which the candidates had to mention while calculating the poll expenditure,” Reddy said.

The candidates filed their accounts which were posted on EC website. “We analysed the expenditure statements of candidates and found that the total amount spent by them for elections was anywhere between ₹20 lakh and ₹35 lakh only. Officially, no candidate has spent more than ₹40 lakh as per the ceiling fixed by the commission though the actual spending would be different,” Reddy said.

The FGG secretary said after receiving complaints about uncontrolled expenditure incurred by officials entrusted with election work, they filed the RTI applications with all the district collectors.

“Many collectors did not respond to our applications. Some collectors forwarded our request to RDOs who, in turn, sent it to tahsildars. So far, we have not received any information from tahsildars. Finally, we requested the finance secretary to provide information regarding the budget release for the conduct of the assembly elections,” Reddy added.