



A. Revanth Reddy

Chief Minister of Telangana

D.O. Letter No.15/2026, Dated:28.08.2026

Dear Shri Gyanesh Kumar ji,

Sub: Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Telangana, 2026 - enlargement of the claims and objections schedule and certain procedural safeguard - Req - Reg.

The Special Intensive Revision in Telangana has now reached the stage where the numbers themselves invite the Commission's attention. Measured against the roll of **3.38 crore** electors as it stood on 10.06.2026, some **73.39 lakh entries (21.7 per cent)** have been placed under the Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate heads. Out of the 2.65 crore enumeration forms digitised so far, **60.50 lakh** stand flagged for anomalies and **32.36 lakh** for want of a link to the earlier roll. The two sets are distinct and do not overlap; they add up to **92.86 lakh** and each of those electors is to be put on notice. Stated plainly, something close to one third electorate of the State must now either prove its entitlement afresh or lose its place on the final roll.

The composition of the Absent, Shifted, Dead, and Duplicate (ASDD) list is a matter of grave concern. Of the 73.39 lakh flagged entries, 45.19 lakh (nearly 62%) are classified as "permanently shifted."

The current verification methodology suffers from critical structural flaws.

- (a) There is no Distinction Between Temporary Absence and Permanent Relocation: A voter who was simply at work, traveling, or temporarily away when the Booth Level Officer (BLO) visited is treated identically to someone who has permanently relocated.
- (b) Absence of Facilitation for Genuine Movers: Electors who have actually moved were given no assistance to file application for enrolling as voters at new address, yet their names are routinely marked for deletion at their previous residence.
- (c) Exclusion from the Statutory Notice Mechanism: Deletions under the "shifted" category bypass formal notice procedures entirely—notices are issued only for data anomalies or unmapped entries.

Consequently, a large number of eligible citizens are systematically denied natural justice and will likely discover their disenfranchisement only when they are turned away at the polling booth on election day.

The entire SIR load is also distributed very unevenly across the State. Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy districts hold a third of the State's electors between them, yet account for **58.6 per cent of all ASDD entries and 41.9 per cent of all verification notices**. These are the very districts in which tenancies are short, work draws families across



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ward and district boundaries several times in a decade, and a continuous paper record of residence is hardest to assemble. In a city of Hyderabad's density, a shift of a few hundred metres is enough to place a household in another polling station. Changing one's home for work or on marriage is an ordinary incident of Indian life, and should not lead to disenfranchisement. I would urge that the revision be so calibrated that ordinary mobility does not, in effect, operate as a disqualification for the electors.

I would accordingly request the Commission to consider the following:

- 1. Enlarging the window for claims and objections:** The period presently notified runs from 17.08.2026 to **16.09.2026**, with the final publication fixed for **19.10.2026**. One month is a very short schedule for a mammoth exercise of this size, and barely a fortnight of it is now left. I would request that this period be extended by four weeks, so that electors whose names are missing from the draft roll - the ASDD class particularly - have a sufficient time to find out where they stand and to file Form 6 claims. Since no election is due in Telangana in the near future, such extension may kindly be considered.
- 2. Public reading of the draft rolls:** ECI Manual on Electoral rolls contemplates that the draft roll be read out at Gram Sabhas and, in urban areas, at Ward Committee meetings, so that omissions surface while there is still time to correct by & then by the concerned electoral officers. I would suggest that the Chief Electoral Officer be asked to direct District Election Officers specifically to convene these meetings at least twice – in all villages and Municipal wards - with publicity given well in advance.
- 3. Allowing an elector a reasonable period to reply to the notice:** A week to respond, with a second notice to follow, may not be sufficient at all, particularly for vulnerable categories like daily-wage earners, migrant workers or elderly persons, least of all where the document called for must be sought from another district or another State. I would request that not less than **three to four weeks** be allowed to each elector to reply and produce papers, so that the elector can establish his /her eligibility.
- 4. Opening Helpdesks:** Helpdesks may be opened, particularly in urban districts, to help electors respond to the notice. In urban areas, it will be useful if the Helpdesks are opened at Booth Level. The electors put on notice, must be actively assisted by helpdesks regarding the documents that are admissible and also in obtaining these documents from the concerned authorities.
- 5. Settling a list of documents that an elector can actually obtain:** The Commission has held, by its letter No. 23/SIR/TEL/2026-SS-III dated 11.08.2026, that the Family Register Certificate issued under G.O. Ms. No. 172 dated 25.07.2026 will not be accepted in SIR verification. While the Commission has given certain reasons for the same, its practical consequence in the urban districts, however, is that a significantly vast number of electors may not possess any of the other admissible documents. I would therefore



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request that a widened and clearly enumerated list of admissible documents be notified for the State, which shall include papers obtainable at the mandal level at short notice, so that Electoral Registration Officers apply a single standard and no elector is turned back for want of a document.

6. Strengthening capacity at the Electoral Registration Officer level: Additional Electoral Registration Officers have been appointed, but the numbers sanctioned will not answer the volume of notice to be served & heard. In Hyderabad district, the notice load works out to upwards of 78,000 cases for each Assembly Constituency, and the prescribed form of notice calls the elector to appear in person before the officer. Hearings on that model simply cannot be held at this scale. I would request that Additional Electoral Registration Officers be sanctioned in sufficient strength, and that hearings be permitted at decentralised points below the ERO level with staggered dates and times printed on the notice itself, particularly across Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy, which carry the greater part of the State's electoral base.

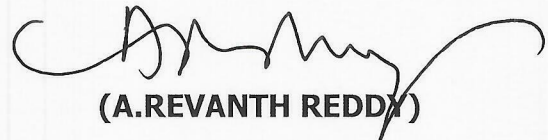
The objective of the whole exercise is to ensure that not a single eligible elector is left out of the rolls and no ineligible voter is included. The outcome of the exercise should inspire confidence in the electors and none should be omitted from the rolls for want of time or opportunity to establish his / her eligibility.

In this regard, State Government is happy to assure of all possible assistance to the Commission, including opening of helpdesks, mobilising administration for convening Gram Sabhas and Ward Committee meetings, dissemination of information and awareness to affected electors and any other logistical support as may be sought by the Commission.

I trust the Commission will bestow its full consideration to the above suggestions and take necessary action in this regard.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(A.REVANTH REDDY)

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